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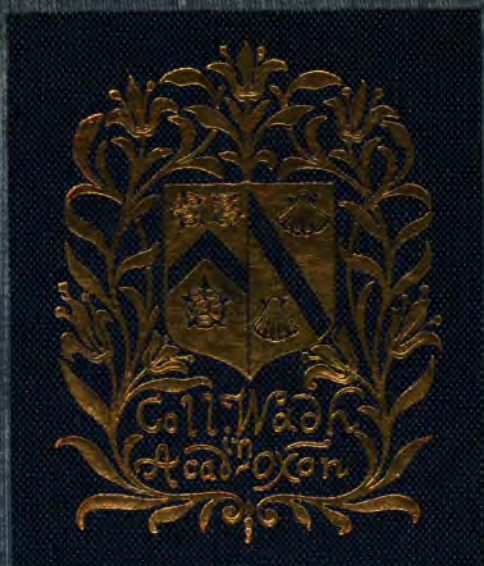
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THE LETTERS

OF (Petre)

Mrs. DOROTHY WADHAM

1609-1618

EDITED, WITH NOTES AND APPENDICES

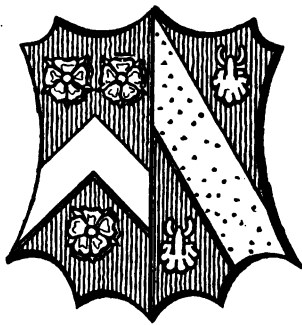
BY

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WADHAM

‘UT VIVAT

NOMEN VETUSTATE ULTIMA VETUSTIUS’

NICOLAO ET DOROTHEAE

HOC PIETATIS OFFICIUM

GRATO ANIMO

PRAESTITIT

R. B. G.

‘SURREXERUNT FILII EIUS ET BEATISSIMAM PRAEDICAVERUNT’

(Prov. lib. cap. xxxi. Vulg.)

PREFACE

THIS work was prepared for publication some years ago, and was intended as an offering of gratitude to the memory of the Wadhams. It was designed as a companion volume to Mr. Graham Jackson's *Wadham College*, and was to have appeared in quarto with all the beauties of margins and illustrations. Circumstances first interrupted, and finally prohibited the fulfilment of the plan; and the limited nature of the public to which the work appeals forbade the hope that its cost could be defrayed if it were published as the editor had designed.

The authorities of the college, however, were unwilling that the matter should be dropped, and kindly offered a subscription towards the expenses. The work therefore appears in its present form; and though shorn of the luxuries with which the gratitude of the editor had hoped to surround it, yet he trusts that its contents will fulfil the purpose for which it was undertaken, and will augment the praise and honour of Dorothy Wadham.

Offered as this work is by a Wadham man to the University of Oxford, and especially to Wadham College, the editor asks to be forgiven if some words occur which, though familiar enough in their own place, seem to be overlooked or inadequately explained in the notes.

The editor's thanks are due to the Warden and Fellows for the assistance and encouragement which they have given him from time to time, and especially for the generosity which has now enabled him to send the work to press.

July 1904.

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INTRODUCTION

OF the letters and other documents here presented, some forty in number, it must be at once stated that none are in the handwriting of Dorothy Wadham, the foundress: they were written mainly by her 'servant,' John Arnold, and she only appends her signature. Several are purely formal deeds transcribed by clerks, and six are from John Arnold himself, either describing his mistress' wishes or giving particulars of her death and burial. In about two out of three cases the original papers still exist, and these (which are carefully noted) have been accurately reproduced; of the remainder only copies more or less solemnly certified by notaries remain, and it is impossible in their case to be sure that the spelling of the transcriber has not varied from the original. However, such as it is, it is carefully given: the only case in which the spelling is partly modernized being number XX. As a rule contractions have been respected, but *wh* (which), *yr* (your), *yt* (when it stands for that), *eve* (ever), and *Statuts* (Statutes) have, for convenience of reading, been printed at full length. There are very few words or phrases which cannot be recognized, and if any do occur they are explained in the note prefixed to each document.

The author of these letters was Dorothy, widow of Nicholas Wadham, Esquire, of Merifield in the county of Somerset, and daughter of Sir William Petre of Writtle in the county of Essex. She was almost exactly a contemporary of Elizabeth Tudor, but she survived the great queen fifteen years: and although her letters will show that she was fit to be placed in a niche not far below Her Majesty, it is to be observed that the whole of her work was undertaken after the death of the queen. Indeed, Nicholas Wadham and Dorothy his wife are remarkable examples of vigorous old age: for the

founder seems to have had no part in public affairs, and takes his first step towards a place in the history of his country almost on his death-bed, while the lady undertakes at the age of seventy-five a task from which even the vigour of Queen Victoria might have shrunk—to found, build, constitute, regulate and govern, down to the smallest details, a college in the University of Oxford.

Nicholas Wadham was himself an Oxford man, and had probably (for all the evidence tends that way) been a Gentleman Commoner of Corpus Christi College; but he did not graduate, and after a brief experience of Court life spent the remainder of his days on his estates, which he cultivated to very good purpose, since his college (which he hoped in place of children would carry on his name from generation to generation) was entirely endowed out of his accumulations without impairing his patrimonial inheritance.

In 1555, at the age of twenty-three, he married Dorothy Petre. She was the daughter of Sir William Petre of Writtle by his first wife Gertrude, daughter of Sir John Tirrell, and was half-sister of Sir John, afterwards the first Lord Petre. She was born in 1534, so that she was a child under Henry VIII, a maiden under Edward VI, a bride under Philip and Mary, and a matron throughout the reign of Elizabeth—yet of this woman, whose force of character these letters are to display, nothing appears to be known except her share in the splendid hospitality of Merifield until she steps forward as a widow in the reign of James I, being then seventy-five years of age, to carry out the designs of her husband. But we may infer something as to the happiness of their long years of married life from the words in which Nicholas commits to her care the execution of his plans: for in his will, without specially mentioning the proposed college, he leaves her residuary legatee of all his personalty ‘upon special trust reposed in her that she will bestow and employ’ such sums as come to her ‘to such uses and purposes as I have requested her, and she hath assented thereunto.’

How fully she justified her husband’s confidence and how nobly she fulfilled his trust these letters will show.

Some discussion has arisen as to the religious opinions of Nicholas and Dorothy; but I venture to suggest that this is probably due to a mistaken idea that the sharp lines of demarcation which separate a Papist from an Anglican can be carried back three hundred years. There can be little doubt that they both considered themselves Catholics, and that had they been questioned on their death-beds they would have declared that they died in the faith in which they were born; they would never have admitted that 'the sacrifices of Masses were blasphemous fables and dangerous deceits,' but on the other hand they were no Papists, and would willingly have assented to the statement that 'the Bishop of Rome hath no jurisdiction in this Realm of England.' It is clear that no seminary priest who asserted that 'princes excommunicated by the Pope might be deposed by their subjects' and called upon them to renounce their allegiance to Elizabeth would have found a welcome at Merifield. From first to last, neither in wills nor statutes, is there a trace of the influence of old religious formularies; and a confident appeal may be made to the letters here published to show that the loyalty of this great and good woman to the Church and State of England continued unimpaired to the day of her death.

To begin with, it must be noticed that Dorothy Petre was almost exactly a contemporary of Elizabeth, and her conduct in religion may well have kept step with that of the great queen. The child of one who rose to power as the follower of Thomas Cromwell and to wealth by the suppression of the monasteries, she, like the daughter of Ann Boleyn, is likely to have been early taught to think lightly of the sway of Rome: that her father secured his spoils by conformity in the reign of Mary naturally left her ready to accept the settlement of Elizabeth. It is to be remembered that it was not till 1570, when Dorothy had probably been settled for fifteen years at Merifield, that the Pope insisted that Englishmen should choose between their queen and their creed. Dorothy and Nicholas may well have been content to continue to worship in their parish church of Ilton, where the parson, if not their own nominee, was probably glad enough to please them, and

to leave the question of the authority of the Pope to those busy fanatics who were shortly to hurry the noblest heads in England to the Tower and the block.

The vicarage of Ilton was held from 1555 to 1580 by Thomas Stokye on the nomination of James Basset; and after Stokye's resignation, by James Bonde (on the nomination of William Hunt of Brodway, husbandman), who appears to have held the living till 1632: these two presentations (and the previous one of Hugh Sydenham in 1532) are exceptional, the vicarage being at other times in the gift of the holder of the Prebend of Ilton in Wells Cathedral.

Neither in the foundation of his alms-houses at Ilton nor in his will does Nicholas show any sign of Papistry; neither in Dorothy's will nor in her college Statutes is there the slightest trace of priestly influence. They neither create foundations for the good of their souls nor do they ask for the prayers or masses of their beneficiaries. The dissolution of the monasteries had taught a Wadham to abhor 'a hive of drones,' and the suppression of chantries had impressed the mind of this daughter of the house of Petre. And the rash and reckless conduct of the Papists after the accession of James I may well have decided them in conformity to the National Church.

It is true that after Dorothy's removal, on her husband's death, to Edge in Devon her house was searched for arms, and that she herself was denounced as a Recusant about 1613: but in 1615 she sued for and obtained a pardon. And could we but discover the circumstances, it may well be that some one took advantage of the fact that this widowed dame of seventy-five and the members of her household did not attend her parish church at Branscombe, which can only be reached by a bridle path about three miles long, to seek an opportunity as informer: particularly as it is said that in her time the house at Edge contained a handsome chapel.

At any rate, Dorothy breathed her last at Edge on May 16, 1618, at the age of eighty-four, and was subsequently buried beside her husband at Ilminster with the rites of the National Church. And all we can say is that if in her inmost heart

she held the doctrines peculiar to Rome, never was woman the details of whose creed left less impress on her actions, never was patriot whose deeds more admirably accommodated themselves to the reign of Elizabeth.

At the end of the vellum copy of the second edition of the Statutes, preserved in the Muniment Room, is the following entry:—

‘Memorandum quod vicesimus dies mensis Octobris A. Dni 1609 fuit dies mortis fundatoris nostri in quo et solennes refectiones habendae sunt et oratio in memoriam fundatoris,’

to which is added in another hand:—

‘et solennes preces ut singuli ad sacellum accedant suppellicis et habitibus singularibus gradibus competentibus. Obiit Fundatrix decimo sexto Maii 1618.’

LETTERS OF DOROTHY WADHAM

I.

NOVEMBER 27, 1609.

NICHOLAS WADHAM expired at his house of Merifield on October 20, 1609, leaving his widow to carry out his wishes, and having given, a few days before his death, a full explanation of his intentions to his nephew, Sir John Wyndham.

It is clear from this letter that Wadham's executrix and heir found herself likely to incur trouble in the carrying out of her husband's wishes. She feared the interference of one who had been 'nominated with her,' but it is difficult to discover who this was—the four overseers of Nicholas' will were John Lord Petre, Sir Edward Hext, John Colles, and William Gibbes: of these none are named in the 'Creation of a Trust' for Wadham College, nor does any one of them appear to have been connected with Gloucester Hall. John Colles (of Somerset, born 1580) was of Christ Church, and a certain William Gibbes, of Gloucester Hall, was not born till 1614, but possibly he may have had an ancestor connected with that place.

At any rate Dorothy's letter, accompanied by the representations of her servant (probably the John Arnold who plays so large a part in the subsequent letters), was successful in securing the favour of the Lord High Treasurer, Robert Cecil, first Earl of Salisbury, so that in the following July (1610) the trust deed for the college was completed: and the letters patent of James I are dated December 20, 1610.

To comply with the promise contained in this letter Dorothy set to work to acquire a site for the college. She first endeavoured (apparently in accordance with her husband's intentions) to purchase the buildings of Gloucester Hall, which lay far from all other academical buildings to the

north-west beyond the open ground called Broken Heys. Fortunately the obstinacy of Dr. John Hawley, the then Principal, who demanded to be Warden of the new college and who failed to satisfy Dorothy's requirements, prevented the banishment of her buildings to that remote site now known as Worcester College, which, until the opening of Beaumont Street, could only be approached by Friar's Entry, and was currently known as 'Botany Bay.'

Sir John Wyndham states that Nicholas had directed that if the Gloucester Hall site could not be procured his benefaction should be transferred to Jesus College, which was at that day the most recent foundation in the University; but there is no evidence that any effort was made in this direction.

An application was made to the city authorities for the site of 'Austin Friars,' then almost unoccupied, which lay just beyond the northern wall, outside Smyth Gate in the suburban parish of Holywell. Having, by means of letters from the king, induced the city authorities to abate somewhat of their price (in return for which they were to nominate one Fellow and two Scholars when the new foundation was filled up), an agreement was entered into for the sale of the freehold for £600 on March 6, 1610; and it would seem that as soon as the necessary deeds were handed over by the city to John Arnold, preparations were made (without waiting for the trust deed or letters patent) to clear the site and erect the buildings of the new college.

Nothing is known of the 'former favours' or 'of the like more than ordinary continued of late' referred to in this letter; nor of any attempt to scandalize or accuse Dorothy of backwardness—indeed, at the time of the writing of this letter her husband had not been dead six weeks. How readily she carried out her profession that she would impoverish herself to fulfil his wishes will be seen later.

Most of the contractions are easily intelligible: a flourished 'p' seems to stand for 'per' or 'pro,' as in 'performing' or 'procuring.'

To the Right honourable and my verie good
Lord Th erle of Salisburie, Lorde Heghe Thre-
soror of Englande geue these at the Courte.

Right honorabell, My verey good Lord, my deceased husband and myselfe haueinge tasted of yo^r formor favors, And the Licke (more then Ordinarie) Contynewed of Late by yo^r Lo^f: towarde mee sithens his deathe; Enforcethe me to present you my right humbell thanks; And will acknowledge myselfe ever bounden unto you for the same. Hit hath bene made knowen unto yo^r good Lo^f: of a Course taken by my Husbande for the Newe Erecting of a Colledge in Oxforde for wth performance hath apointed good means; And by former and often private spehes wth mee as in licke sorte by a shorte Instrumente drawen upp not longe before he died, did allowe me the prioritie in the managing of those busines Although another was Nomynated wth me in the same beinge the rather sett downe for that he was of Gloster Hall, And p^retended to be habell to doe more to Compasse the p^rcuringe of that House, then aney other. I humbelie beseech yo^r Honor, that if aney Conceyte happen to schandalize my backwardnes in not effectinge so worthie a Worke; bending my whole endevors to see the same finished wthout delaie in my owne tyme, wth Cannot be Longe. That hit would please you to patronize and defende me from suche wronge Imagina^õns desieringe noe longer to lyve, then to shewe a frowarde dispositon for the well p^rformance And will rather Leave a poore and meane estate to myselfe, then aney thinge shalbe wantinge for the well effectinge thereof. This berer my servantt whoe attendid my husband dailey, and att his laste houre, Can relate his whole inten^õn yf hit may not be trobelsome to yo^r Lo^f to heare him. And so moste humblie beseechinge yo^r good Lo^f That I may bee soe boulder to Crave yo^r assistance upon aney occa^õn herein Will dailey praye that Thalmightie God maie blesse you wth longe

& happy daies and send you encrease of mytche Honor,
from my poore Howse att Merifeeld the xxvijth of November
1609.

Yo^r Ho^e in all humblenes
ever readie att Comāndmēt
DOROTHE WADHĀ.

II.

APRIL 15, 1613.

Between the letter of Dorothy to the Lord Chancellor and the next document more than three years passed. The college buildings rose rapidly from the ground—chambers, hall, library, and chapel. The foundation-stone was laid on July 31, 1610, and the chapel was sufficiently finished to be consecrated on April 29, 1613. So came into being what may be called, without exaggeration, the most 'perfect' college building in Oxford: and it remains to this day without alterations (perceptible, that is, to the eye of the untrained) as it left the hands of its builders. It is certain that the foundress never saw the offspring which was to carry on her name to subsequent ages, but it is clear that she was well acquainted with its plan; and if (as seems probable) the wonderful perpendicular chapel into which you pass from the late Gothic ante-chapel was imitated from the churches of her adopted county of Somerset (particularly Ilminster), she can have found no difficulty in picturing her building to the eye of her imagination. The quadrangle with its harmoniously arranged staircases, the chambers with their three-light windows, each having two or three studies (*musaeola*) with a single light, remain visible throughout the façade both inside and out: and although the internal arrangements of the north-east corner have been altered to make the Warden's lodgings, and in some cases sash windows have taken the place of casements, yet, as the mullions have in all cases been retained, there is no such terrible havoc to be noted as in the cases of New College and Lincoln quadrangles.

On August 16, 1612, Dorothy, by her Charter of Foundation, constituted the college of a Warden, fifteen Fellows, as many Scholars, two Chaplains, and two Clerks, besides the necessary servants. She retained for herself during her life the nomination to all places and offices within the college, and, with the exception of the three places conceded to the city, filled up the foundation as follows:—

Warden.

Robert Wright, D.D.

Fellows.

William Smith (Sub-Warden).
John Goodridge.
Edward Brunckard (Bursar).
John Pitts (Dean).
Matthew Osborne (Humanity
Lecturer).
James Harington (Bursar).
Henry Ancktill (Catechist).
Daniel Estcott (Sub-Dean).
Humphrey Sydenham.
Richard Puleston.
Francis Strode.
Ralph Flexney.
Thomas Harris ¹.
William Payton.
John Swadell.

Scholars.

Nicholas Brewen.
Robert Ellis.
Amias Hext.
John Woolley.
William Arnold.
Robert Arnold.
Walter Stonehouse.
William Boswell.
John Willis.
John Flavell.
Richard Tapper.
Alexander Hewis (Huish).
George Hill.
William Potter ¹.
Isaac Smith ¹.

Chaplains.

Thomas Randolphe.
Gilbert Stokes.

Clerks.

Alexander Gill.
William Nichols.

All these were admitted by the newly appointed Warden, Dr. Wright, on April 20, 1613, with the exceptions of Osborne and Smith, who were not admitted till June 8, and Nichols, who was admitted on July 1.

¹ The nominees of the City of Oxford.

Of the original servants we know that William Bishop was Cook ; Nicholas Buller, Butler ; John Williams, Manciple ; George Jacob, Under-Butler ; John Sarjant, Under-Cook ; Samuel Tynes, Janitor, who died in 1614 and was buried in the cloister ; and Thomas Stripling, Barbitonsor.

But it is evident from this document that the foundress had already reason to believe that Dr. Wright's tenure of the Wardenship was not likely to last long ; and whether in consequence of the compulsory celibacy or because he found the control of the foundress too irksome, Warden Wright resigned on July 19. On September 2 John Fleminge, here referred to, took Wright's place as nominated.

Fleminge was a Cornishman, and Fellow of Exeter College. He had held the office of Proctor, and was one of the Chaplains of James I.

As to the document itself, it is to be noted that whereas in all others she signs 'Dorothe,' in this one it is 'Dorotheie,' and that she is described as of Merifield, though she had probably ere this removed from the home of her long married life to Edge in the parish of Branscombe in Devon, the dower house of the Wadhams, where Joan (Tregarthin), her mother-in-law, had died after five years' widowhood in 1583.

It will be observed that the paper was given not to Fleminge himself, but to John Arnold, who probably carried it to Oxford in time for the opening ceremonies of the college.

The names of the witnesses, who appear to be servants, occur in several other documents. The seal (which is impressed on the paper turned back over wax) is about half an inch in diameter, and bears the arms of Petre, but neither as they appear in the college arms nor as used by Lord Petre : not only on the bend between two escallops does Dorothy bear a chough between two cinquefoils, but also on a chief she has a rose between two demi-fleur-de-lis.

I Dorothe Wadham of Merifeeld in the Countie of Somerset Widdow doe decree & ordeine that when this first Warden of Wadham Colledge Doctor Wright hath resigned or by any

other meanes made his place voyde in the Colledge within the space of five yeares you that are the fellowes of that house shall immediatlye chuse and admitt without any delaye or contradiction Mr. John Fleminge Bachelor of Devenitie in that place accordinge to the meaneinge of this Schedule which I have sealed with mine owne seale and unto which I have subscribed with mine owne hand as it is Specified in the words of your Statutes in this behalfe, Aprill this fifteenth 1613.

DOROTHIE WADHAM.

Seign'd sealed & delivered
unto John Arnold Gent to the
use of the within named
John Fleminge in the presence of
Nicholas Younge
Tho: Verier
Thomas Drayton

III.

JUNE 4, 1613.

Of this letter we have only the transcript in the Convention Book.

But little explanation is required for this document. Originally the tenure of a Fellowship was limited to ten years from Regency: for, said the founder on his death-bed to his nephew, Sir John Wyndham, 'I would have them absolutely to departe the College and not live there all their time like idle drones;' which latter expression gives the more evidence that the founder was of Corpus Christi College, throughout the Statutes of which college the bee-hive metaphor runs. This period, allowing for the two years of 'necessary regency,' gave twelve years from the time of taking the degree of Master of Arts. Already it seems that Dorothy had in her mind the extension of the tenure of Fellowships to eighteen years, though this is not intimated in her letters till March, 161 $\frac{1}{2}$ (letter XII).

Smith was the senior Fellow, and was annually nominated by Dorothy as Sub-Warden till he succeeded to the Wardenship on March 24, 161 $\frac{1}{2}$. He was Vice-Chancellor of the

University in 1630 and 1631, and held the Wardenship till 1635, when he resigned, being Rector of Tredington, Worcestershire, to which he was presented in 1629. As we know that he was subsequently married, this may have been the cause of his resignation. He was appointed Prebendary of Worcester in 1638, and is said to have been deprived of all his preferments during the Civil War. He died in 1658.

I Dorothey Wadham of Edge in the Countye of Devon Widdow doe by these presents ordaine & decree that William Smyth Master of Artes and Subwarden of my Colledge in Oxford shall (notwithstanding the force of any of my Statutes) remayne & continue there in his Fellowship and enjoyeing the benefitte thereof from the tyme of his admission untill the full tyme of twentye yeares be expyred & ended. Soe as he demeane himselfe Aunswerable to the orders of the house According to the meaning of this Schedule which I have sealed with mine owne seale and unto which I have subscribed with myne owne hand the iiijth of June 1613.

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Sealed & delivered in
the presence of
John Arnold
Nicholas Young
Thomas Drayton.

IV.

JUNE 4, 1613.

Transcript in the Convention Book.

In this letter we have the first instance of the foundress' claim to fill up vacant places in every division of the foundation as they occur. Philip Hill was the son of Sarah, daughter of Dr. Philip Bisse, by Philip Hill, D.D., Vicar of Burford, Oxon., and Eaton Hastings, Berks. He was at this time about twelve years old: he is again nominated in a letter of June 27, 1614, 'if ready,' which he presumably was, as Thomas

Porter, the other nominee of Dorothy, was postponed to him. His name occurs twice in the Matriculation Books, with a variation in the age, as he is described as aged thirteen on November 3, 1615, and sixteen on November 8 in the following year. The reason for his selection for the first vacancy is to be found in the generous gift of his grandfather, who bestowed his library on the college at the time of its opening. This munificence had already been recognized by the nomination of the donor's nephew, John Swadell, to a Fellowship, although he was not yet a graduate.

In a manuscript note written in Latin upon a copy of the Statutes the foundress is said to have described Swadell as 'the nephew of Dr. Philip Bisse whom, though he be not a graduate, I have selected on account of the singular love of his uncle towards my college.'

It is to be noted that in this letter Dorothy is again described as 'of Merifield,' though in the previous one, which professes to be signed the same day, she is described as 'of Edge.' It would be more likely that she should continue to be described 'of Merifield' after her removal to Edge than vice versa; yet there is a letter dated from Merifield August 30, 1613.

I Dorothe Wadham of Merefeilde in the County of Somersett widdowe doe decree and ordayne that when the nexte Schollers place is voyde in Wadham Colledge you that are the Warden and Fellowes then of that house shall imediatly chuse and admitt without delay or contradictyon Philippe Hill the graund-childe of Doctor Bisse in that place accordinge to the meaninge of this Schedule which I have sealed with myne owne seale and unto which I have Subscribed with myne owne hande the fourth of June 1613.

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Sealed and delivered
in the presence of
John Arnolde
Nicholas Younge
Thomas Drayton.

V.

JULY 3, 1613.

The Thomas Porter here referred to appears to be the grandson of William Cotton, who was Bishop of Exeter from 1598 to 1621. He was already a member of the college, having been admitted as a Commoner in 1613, though he did not subscribe the Articles till June 3, 1614. The letter would seem to imply that one election to a vacant Scholarship had already taken place, but this can hardly have been the case on July 3, 1613, unless the foundress had supposed that Porter would be preferred to one of the two city nominees, Smith or Potter: for it was contemplated in the City's agreement that it might be impossible to fill the three places at once. But more probably 'the first place at the first election' means that he was to have been placed at the head of the list of Scholars at the opening of the college: this explanation makes the words more easy to reconcile with her nomination of Philip Hill to the first 'vacant place.' At any rate, though again recommended on June 27, 1614, Porter had to wait for his turn till March 24, 1616. He had his grace from the college for B.A. November 12, 1617, and for M.A. May 29, 1620. The 'morrow of St. Peter' (June 30), 1624, saw him elected to a Fellowship, but he resigned after two years' tenure without having held any college office. He was afterwards Rector of St. Mabyn, Cornwall.

The letter is written on parchment, and has a large wax seal with Dorothy's peculiar version of the Petre arms. On the back is written 'signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of me, Richard Potter, publique Notarie.'

Reverend And welbeloved I greete you well wheras I did for some good causes and respects me moving att the earnest request of my honorable good Lord Bisshopp of Exeter graunte that Thomas Porter his grand-child should have the first Schollers place in Wadham colledge att the first election But by reason of sicknes and shorte warninge he could not be

JULY 3, 1613

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theare at the tyme and so was disappointed I doe nowe therefore signifie unto you that my mynd and purpose is that the said Thomas Porter shall have the next first Schollers place that shalbe voide in the said Colledge requiring you freandlie to accept of him when tyme shall searve and not to contradict my desire any Note Statute Ordinance or Provision to the contrarie in any wise notwithstandinge Geven under my hand & Seale the third Daye of Julye Anno Dni 1613.

DOROTHE WADHAM.

To the Warden & Fellowes of
Wadham colledge in Oxford
for the tyme beinge.

VI.

AUGUST 30, 1613.

The deed of resignation of Warden Wright (which appears to have been enclosed with this letter), after holding his office for three months, is dated July 19. As is mentioned in the letter, the foundress had already made arrangements to fill his place (see schedule II). Fleminge was taken from outside the college society probably because Smith, the senior Fellow, was not yet thirty, and Goodridge, the next, though older, was studying in the faculty of medicine. In accordance with this letter and the original schedule Fleming was admitted Warden on Sept. 2, 1613; and he proceeded to his Doctor's degree on November 9 following. But his early death disappointed Dorothy's hopes, for he died on March 16, 1614, and was buried in the inner chapel of the college, near the communion table, on March 26. The bond for the administration of his estate (with inventory and accounts) is in the Chancellor's Court, dated May 12, 1617.

No doubt the bearer of this letter was again John Arnold. We do not know what particular changes in the Statutes are indicated in this letter, nor in what other matters he was entrusted with Dorothy's wishes.

It is to be noted that the letter professes to come from Merifield, in which case the foundress must have returned thither from Edge since June 4: also the seal is that of John Arnold. On a chevron between three pheons, a mullet between four goutts: as to colours, the field was probably gules and the pheons or; the chevron is sometimes blazoned ermine, but this is an error caused by the charges: probably the chevron was or, in which case the charges were gules or sable.

My good Company

Understandeinge (by this inclosed) that Doctor Wright hath geuen over his place and thinkinge it not fitt you should be longe without a head I doe therefore by these my Letters make knowne unto you that I have made choyce of M^r John Fleminge Bachelor of Devenitie to be your Warden: you shall finde likewise my intent towards him before this by a Schedule under my hand and seale to prevent the inconveniences that might arise knowinge none capeable in the House, Yf it should have happened within five yeeres: now my will is that presently upon sight heerof you geve him the othe by me apoynted in my Statutes and admitt him warden of your Colledg who I hope will so govern amongst you as shalbe for your good and my contentment in placeinge of him. I have geuen power to this Bearer to see reformed in your Statutes what shalbe thought fittinge for the good of the House, and for other matters have willed him to make knowne my minde unto you and soe comendinge me very kindlye unto all doe leave you to the protection of Thalmightie, merifeild this xxxth of August 1613.

To the Subwarden and
Fellowes of Wadham
Colledge in Oxforde
geve these.

Your Loveinge Foundresse
DOROTHE WADHAM.

VII.

NOVEMBER 7, 1613.

Transcript in the Convention Book.

Herein the foundress again recommends Thomas Porter for election to a Scholarship (see letter V), but clearly postpones his claims to those of another, that is, no doubt, Philip Hill, although she would have been willing had Porter been admitted at 'the first election,' that is (I take it) to the original foundation.

It is to be noted that this and schedule XX are the only papers in the collection which have the regnal date, and it reminds us that, although King James was but forty-eight, he had been King of Scotland for forty-seven years.

Reverend and wellbeloved greetinge: for the good respect I beare unto my honourable good Lorde Bishopp of Exceter [I] am very willinge to conferre uppon Thomas Porter his graund-child the nexte second Schollarshipp that shall happen and be voyde within Wadham Colledge beyng the more willinge he should not be denyed for that my intentyon was to have pleased his Lo^{pp} in the first electyon which former respects giveth me cause freindly to require you not to gainsay my desire for the admittance of his sayde graund-childe accordingly, any act ordinance provision or former graunt or graunts for the sayde next second schollarshippe to the contrary in any wise not withstandinge Given under my hand and seale the 7th day of November A^o regni Regis nri Jacobi Angliae undecimo et Scotiae quadragesimo septimo.

DOROTHE WADHAM.

To the Warden and fellowes of
Wadham Colledge in Oxforde for the tyme beynge.

VIII.

NOVEMBER 12, 1613.

Transcript in the Convention Book.

The two days selected for Gaudies were 'the morrow of St. Peter,' i. e. June 30, probably from the family name of the foundress, and the feast of St. Nicholas, on December 6. On the latter of these the college officers were annually chosen, but as long as Dorothy lived she retained the nomination of them in her own hands. Apparently she desired that every Fellow should fill each office in turn, except that Smith was continually reappointed as Sub-Warden. Of the two Bursars, each in those times held office for half a year. The Greek Reader remained an officer, under the name of Humanity Lecturer, till modern times: 'phy.' is short for philosophy. As to 'other officers' there do not appear to have been any till 1618, when the office of librarian was constituted; and five years later (1623) a new class was formed of the younger undergraduates, and the officer was designated 'Moderator Tertiae Classis.'

Good M^r Warden,

Findinge by your statutes, that on the sixt daye of this next moneth you are to make a newe electyon for the officers of your house and that in my life tyme yt remayneth wholly in my choyce I would therfore that for your Subwarden you admitt for this yeere M^r Smyth; and for your Deane M^r Goodridge; for your Bursars, M^r Osborne and M^r Anketell; for your greek reader M^r Pitts; for your Catechist M^r Bruncker; for your phy. moderator M^r Escott; for your Subdeane M^r Stroude; As for the rest if there be any other officers to be chosen I leave to your owne discretyon; And so comendinge me very kindly to your self and your whole Company doe bidd you farewell.

Edge this 12th November 1613.

Your Loving freinde
DOROTHE WADHAM.

IX.

DECEMBER 12, 1613.

Transcript in the Convention Book of a letter from
John Arnold.

The college, as stated by the foundress, was not lavishly endowed, nor had 'Domus' any ready money. 'Domus' was the heading under which one-third of the revenues of the college was placed continually: and this fund was called upon to discharge common expenses—but the 'making of seals' and the carriage of Dr. Bisse's books were unexpected demands in the first year of the life of the college, so that it is no wonder that the cost was met by Dorothy's liberality.

And further, although this letter was written after St. Nicholas' Day, 1613, no doubt £10 in gold would furnish in those days a considerable amount of Christmas cheer for the foundation, consisting, when all were present, of thirty-five members.

Good M^r Doctor

I have solicited your sute for your Company unto my mistris and I have prevayled so farre with her, as that she hath sent you to dischargd Carryadge and Settlinge of your books with the makinge of your seales fifty poundes; and withall because it is the first Christmas that hath byn kept in Wadham Colledge my M^{rs} hath sent you likewise tenn poundes, which must be spent this Christmas in Gawdyes from her as a token of her remembrance unto the whole Company; these monyes are sent by me in gould; and my mistresse refers the managinge of yt unto your self; and the acquayntinge of your company with yt. And so with my best remembrance to your self and my kynde love to all my good freindes I leave you to God remayninge alwayes to the uttmost of my power

Your faithfull freind
JOHN ARNOLDE.

X.

DECEMBER 20, 1613.

Transcript in the Convention Book.

In this letter we get a view of the foundress' idea of the extent of her control over the working of the college. It is evident that she had nominated her own man to be the first cook of the foundation, and this was presumably William Bishopp, who matriculated as *Coquus*, October 13, 1613, when he is described as '*Devoniensis, plebeius, annos natus 50.*'

It would seem that she had further given him leave of absence, so that we may presume that he was a member of her own household. The cook's place was sufficiently valuable for the Archbishop of Canterbury (George Abbott) to exert himself on behalf of a client, for whom he is content to beg for the position of substitute with reversion of the cook's place. That the cook's place was one of considerable profit may be inferred from the fact that whereas the stipend fixed by the foundress was only £3 a year, Robinson was required to guarantee £12 a year allowance to the actual cook. We gather that Warden Wright, finding the cook's place unoccupied, had put in a man without the leave of the foundress; but now that his patron has resigned the Wardenship, the cook-substitute is sent away, and Roger Robinson, the nominee of the Archbishop, takes his place rather as '*coquus inferior*,' or as substitute for the '*coquus*': at any rate, John Sarjant was '*coquus inferior*' in 1619, though Robinson did not succeed to the position of *coquus* till 1627, when he was admitted on December 12, '*habito respectu designationis honoratissimae Fundatricis nostrae.*' He held the office till 1636, when he was dismissed and fell into poverty.

It is to be observed that Dr. Abbott was Master of University College from 1597 to 1609, and that Roger Robinson was admitted '*privilegiatus*' as cook of University College on June 19, 1610, aged twenty-seven, whence probably arose the interest which induced the Archbishop to interfere on his

behalf. It is to be marked that while the body of the letter is occupied with the business of the cook, the more serious matter of an alteration in the Statutes is relegated to the postscript, and so treated that we have no specification of 'what else is amisse.'

The foundress' acquaintance with the details of the interior of the college is shown in her directions for placing the chaplains (Stokes and Randolphe) in the first and second-floor rooms on the left-hand side of the first staircase on the right-hand to one entering the quadrangle: in fact, the left-hand side of this staircase was known in the Chamber Book as 'Chaplains.'

Nothing is known of the 'courtesyes' heretofore received by the foundress from the Archbishop, nor of the real cause of her very obvious displeasure with Warden Wright.

The spelling in the letter is in places curious and not always consistent, but as we have only the transcript it is impossible to say whether the transcriber or Dorothy's amanuensis is responsible.

My good Warden

I have heretofore heard of a desire that my Lords Grace of Cante^b: had to place a Cooke as substitute during the tyme of my Cookes absenc but nowe I doe plainly perceyve that by his Graces letters unto me in that behalf wherein knowinge myself much bounden for many courtesyes which I have heeretofore receyved from his grace I am and shalbe still ready to requite in what my hableness will afforde and therefore seying that Doctor Wright to serve his owne turne hath hidden his Grace his desire therin and placed his owne man w'thout my privy ; these shalbe expressly to require you and your Company to remove uppon sight heerof Doctor Wrights man and to place Rodger Robinson as substitute under my cooke and to holde the place duringe his absence and because I finde by his Grace's letter that he is willinge he shall yeeld som reasonable consideratyon to my man as longe as he shall holde yt, my will is that you take assurance of him for the payinge

unto my Cooke the summe of twelve poundes a yeere quarterly to be payde by 3li the quarter to such a one as you shall thinke fitt to receyve the same to his use. And wheras his Grace doth likewise desire that if the sayde Robinson shall over lyve my man I would bestowe the revercyon of the Cookes place on him during his life I am very willing likewise to fullfill his Grace's desire therin if your self uppon farther tryall shall finde him fittinge. Otherwise I trust his Grace will pardon me desiring you by your Letter to certifye his Grace of my willingness in yeelding these his requests or any elce that shall lye in my small power and so with my kynde love to your self and your whole company doe remayne nowe and ever your loving Foundresse

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Edge this 20th of December 1613.

Postscrip

There are som clauses in my Statutes concerning som exercises which are defectyve wch I desire you to reforme and what else is amisse so they be not contrary to the Will of M^r Wadham and my Statutes already made or at least the true meaning of them : the two Chaplaynes I would should be placed in the two chambers of the right side of the Gate that hath but one studdy a peece.

XI.

FEBRUARY 3, 1614.

In this letter the foundress generously announces that she makes over to the college at once the profits of the Essex lands, with which Nicholas had directed her to endow the college after her death. She retains for her life a charge of £200 a year, but as the rents averaged at this time about £470 a year, she is not only amply providing for the additional expenditure directed in the letter, but leaving a handsome amount over to be 'employed for the publique good of the colledge.' It is true that her anticipations seem to have been disappointed, the revenue not coming in as well as had been

expected, but it may be suggested that Petre Whetcombe, who acted as her steward in Essex, was not so careful to exact what was due for the benefit of what he (as a kinsman) may have considered an intruding corporation, as he had been for that notable housewife, his kinswoman, the foundress.

With regard to the calculation in this letter, it must be noted that the mark being reckoned at thirteen shillings and fourpence, the Warden's stipend is *increased* from £50 to £66 13s. 4d., which is an increase of 50 nobles; but with regard to the other stipends, the actual increase only is named, 20 nobles (or £6 13s. 4d.) being the addition to the previous stipend of a Fellow, probably amounting at this time to £10 a year; and similarly with regard to the other Foundationers mentioned.

There is nothing peculiar in the actual wording of the letter, but the superscription 'To my whole Societye' is worthy of notice.

My good Companye,

I doe send you by this Bearer my Servaunt a Deed signed sealed and delivered to your use wherin I passe unto you all my Landes in Essex for the rent of two hundred pounds a yere (beinge not halfe the valew of it) to better your stipents, which I would have bestowed as followeth: Wheras by my Statutes the Warden duringe my Life is to have but fiftie pounds a yere I will that now by this increase he shall have an hundred markes a yere, every fellow shall have twentye nobles a yere beside ther diet, Every scoller fower pounds a yere, Every chaplin five pounds a yere and Every Clarke fiftie shillinges a yere. All those stipents soe geven I will shalbe received as a new yeres remembrance from me, to continew as long as it shall please God to geve me Life and afterwards to follow the Course of your Statutes by me sett downe. The whole som amounteth to one hundred fower skore and eleven pounds thirteen shillinges and fower pence, halfe where of you shall receive att our Ladye day next and thother halfe at michelmas followinge what overplus shall arise out of those landes (my rent of two hundred pounds a

yere being payd me) I will shalbe imployed for the publique good of the Colledge. And soe hopeinge that you will all indeavour your selves in such sorte as may be for your owne good and the Creditt of the house you leeve in, doe with my daylye prayers to Thalmightie for to send his Blessinges upon you, Leave you all both now and ever to his protection. Remyayneinge alwayes

Edge this thirde of
Febrewarye 1613.

Your verye Loveinge Foundresse
DOROTHE WADHAM.

To my whole Societie
The Warden Fellowes
and Scollers of Wadham
Colledge geve these
in Oxforde.

XII.

MARCH 28, 1614.

In this letter the foundress directs a very important change to be made in the college Statutes. For whereas by her husband's directions it was ordained that a Fellow should vacate his Fellowship at the expiration of twelve years, she now extends the term to twenty. The original Statute fixed the time for the resignation of the Fellow at the completion of ten years from Regency. This period, with the seven years' study which led up to the M.A. degree and the two years of necessary Regency, made a total of nineteen years, which is extended by this letter to twenty-seven. The Statute as amended ran as follows:—

'Statuo quod nemo omnium ex dictis sociis octodecim (originally decem) annis finitis et plenario transactis post completam Magistratus sui Regentiam fruatur aliquo beneficio vel commoditate dicti Collegii sed se sua sponte tunc cedere notabit' (Cap. 12).

The Bishop of Bath and Wells, on whose advice the foundress professes to act, was James Montague, the first Visitor of the college, who, in spite of his translation to

Winchester (1616), retained that office till his death (July 20, 1618) at the express wish of the foundress. He was succeeded as Visitor by Bishop (Arthur) Lake.

The 'cosen Whetcombe' referred to is no doubt Petre Whetcombe, who seems to have acted as steward for the Essex estates and to have endeavoured to secure for himself beneficial leases of some of the farms there.

The 'old Glasier,' with whom the college authorities had been 'brabbling,' was one Robert Rudland, whose receipt in full for glass supplied is dated April 18, 1614. He is supposed to have not only glazed the college generally, but also to have supplied the figures of the prophets in the windows on the north side of the chapel. No doubt the figures of the Apostles on the south side are the 'like Statues' made in accordance with Dorothy's wishes, as they are dated 1616.

Nicholas Buller was put into the place of butler by the foundress at the opening of the college. He died in 1628, and was buried in the ante-chapel. The first staircase on the left to one entering is known in the Chamber Book as Buller's Inn.

John Williams, the Manciple, appears to have had his chamber on the ground floor in the north-west corner of the quadrangle, which now forms part of the Warden's lodgings. When he died in 1630 he left the contents of his rooms to the college, and an inventory of them is given in the Chamber Book.

The postscript seems to indicate that a certain laxity was growing up in the matter of 'prayers and fasting days,' which naturally was not approved by one who had lived her early life under a stricter rule.

My Good Warden,

I have Considered for the good of my Colledge to swarve a little from the Will of your founder so powerfull is the counsell of my Reverent frinde the Lo: Bishopp of Bath and Wells with me (and the aprobatation of your selfe doth noe way hinder me therin) as that I will presume (being allowed by

men of judgment) to alter a little his minde thoughe otherwise I should be very loath to be drawen to it were it not for the good of the house. I would therfore that you presently doe cause your Statute Booke to be new written wherin if ther be any other faulte founde I pray let them be amended before they com unto me. But for the increase of the Fellowes *tyme*¹ (for the reasons afore sayd) I will that they shall staye in the house twentye yeres wher before it was but twelve which I thinke to be very large and I am suer I have added therby eight yeres more than the founders Will was. I doe send you with all my Statute Booke in Englishe which I desire may be made perfitt to your new booke. I doe staye the answeringe of you toching my New-yeres guifte untill my cosen Whetcombes cominge but howsoever you shall be suer to have what I have promised. I would have you also to end with your old Glasier that ther may be noe more brabbling with him but my minde is to have the like Statues made yf you can gett it well down that it maye a little make shew for what purpose that place was apoynted. I would also that (wheras ther will fale out a good overplus out of those Essex lands more than my New yeres remembrance cometh unto) you doe yerely geve unto my cosen Buller dureinge my life five markes a year as a remembrance from me and the like unto John Williams your Mansiple for his faythful servis heretofore donn me. And soe with my kinde love to your selfe and well wishes to all my good companye doe bid you hartely farwell.

Edge this xxviiith of Marche 1614.

Your very loveinge foundresse

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Post:

I would have prayers and fastinge dayes dewly observed in the house not allowinge any in ther Chambers to breake it or else where within the Colledge.

To my aproved good Warden M^r Doctor Flimminge att Wadham Colledge in Oxforde geve these.

¹ This word is not in the MS.

XIII.

JUNE 27, 1614.

Transcript in the Convention Book.

In this letter we have a distinct statement of the relation in which the foundress considers herself to stand to her foundation. She clearly asserts that during her lifetime all nominations are in her gift, and that she can put in whomsoever she will either as Fellows or Scholars.

The circumstance which called forth the letter was the early death of Thomas Harris, the Fellow who had been nominated by the City of Oxford. He was but a Bachelor of Arts, and though the stipulation for the payment of Battels for his pupils is found among those of the rest of the original Fellows in his own handwriting (and a beautiful Italian hand it is), he does not seem to have had any pupils. He died on June 5, 1614, and was buried in the ante-chapel near the north wall, where his monument still remains with this inscription :—

‘ Epitaphium doctissimi religiosissimique juvenis
 Thomae Harris
 Artium Baccalaurei
 Et hujus Collegii Socii inter primos
 Ab ipso conditore electi.
 Haec juvenem tenet urna brevis qui tempora vitae
 Tam bene percurrit quam cito: dignus erat
 Inter nos vixisse diu, nisi quam mage dignus
 Inter felices vivere coelicolas.
 Obiit 5 Junii 1614.’

He was probably the son of Thomas Harris, who was Mayor of Oxford in 1610 (the year in which the site of the college was bought from the city), and on two other occasions.

The three Scholars whom Dorothy refers to as eligible stand quite low in the original list, but Huish (otherwise Hewis) was the first man to take his B.A. from Wadham,

which he did on February 10, 161³/₁₇, while the other two did not graduate till June 28, after the death of Harris.

Alexander Huish (Hewis) was preferred by the Society: he had come to the college from Magdalen Hall. He remained a Fellow for fifteen years, taking in turn the usual college offices. He subsequently became Rector of Beckington (1628), and of Hornblotton (1638), Somerset, and Prebendary of Wells. Though he suffered much during the Rebellion, on the Restoration he recovered his benefices and lived on till 1668. He was one of the editors of the Polyglot Bible and was well versed in Oriental languages.

Of the two names suggested for the Scholar's place vacated by Huish, Philip Hill was presumably ready, as he was preferred to Porter; the reason for his nomination is given in schedule IV; he appears to have resigned his Scholarship before December 3, 1618, without graduating.

My good Warden and the rest of my Societie,

Being let to understand by you of the late death of one of the fellows of my house which (if it had pleased God) for the good I have heard of him I could have wished otherwise but seing ther is no remedye it resteth now in me to supplye that place. And finding by my Statutes that the Fellowes are to be chosen out of the Schollers of the house after me (although durement my life I may alter it at my pleasure) yet if their owne cariadges & want of worth doe not enforce me I will not as I am yet advised soe disharten them as to put in others and neglect them: I heare of three eligible in my Colledge Flavell Tapper & Huish all by report worthy out of which three but one can be chosen. And therefore seing it was the good Fortune of one of them onely to be capeable at the death of the other my will is that you admitte the same Huish to be Probationer for one yeare according to my Statutes and as he shall behave himselfe this yeare be either chosen Fellow or put out. Upon the amoveing of him there will fall out a Scholler's place voyde. I would have you that

JUNE 27, 1614

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if Doctour Hill send his Son you doe admitte him to be Scholler but if he answere that his son is not yet readye then my will is you admitte Thomas Porter my Lord Bishop of Exeter's graundchilde and Doctoure Hille's son to have the next place that shall happen. And soe with my daileye prayers for you all I leave you to the Almightye's protection. Edge this xxviith of June 1614.

Your very loving Foundresse

DOROTHE WADHAM.

XIV.

NOVEMBER 15, 1614.

Transcript in the Convention Book.

The humility with which the writer professes her unfitness to select the college officers for the year is a curious contrast to her general tone in dealing with 'her Company.' But the inference seems to be that Warden Fleminge has submitted a list for her approval, alleging the impossibility of proceeding to the election of St. Nicholas' Day without her warrant. She nominates the eight officers, changing all except the Sub-Warden.

The Moderator of Philosophy whose name appears as Pillson is evidently Richard Puleston.

It will shortly be seen (see letter XVI) that it was not without reason that Dorothy reminded the college to take order about their Essex rents, and between this date and the following Midsummer the Society evidently found itself in difficulties. The £50 referred to is apparently one quarter of the charge which Dorothy had reserved for herself when she handed over the estates to the college (see letter XI).

My good Warden,

Although it bee not a thing fitt for me to appointe officers in my Colledge yet knowing by my Statutes that I have reserved it unto my selfe and seeing that without my warrant

you will not presume the appointinge of them I will therefore that for your Subwarden you chuse M^r Smith, the Deane M^r Osburne the bursers M^r Goodridge M^r Brunkar the Catechest M^r Pitts the Greeke reader M^r Stroude the Moderator in Philosophy M^r Pillson, the Subdeane S^r Huish. If there be any other n^ot thought on I leave it to yourselfe to be carefull both in that as in all things else about the Colledge in whome my whole trust depends. I hope you have taken order for your rents in Essex, you must now trust to yourselves and looke into your owne Estates. I have appointed this bearer my servant Arnold to receive the fiftie pounds now due to mee and soe with my dayly prayers for you all doe leave you to the protection of Thallmighty and rest

Edge this 15 No:
1614.

your assured lovinge Foundresse
DOROTHE WADHAM.

XV.

APRIL 24, 1615.

This document shows how the foundress meant to stretch her powers of nomination to a considerable extent. From expressions which occur elsewhere I cannot but think that much suit was made to her to obtain nominations for Scholars' places before her death. Of the five here named, Porter had still to wait a year before his election, and Crudge two years. This latter, who is described as of 'St. Madron in Cornwall,' seems to have been the son of a Thomas Crudge of that place and Mary Fleminge, who is mentioned in the Visitation of 1620, so that he was probably connected with the Warden through his mother. Drake had to wait till November, 1617, and Cliffe till February, 161 $\frac{7}{8}$. This latter was of Ingatestone in Essex, where lay the estates lately transferred to the college by the foundress. Gill, the last named, was at this time one of the clerks of the college, and about eighteen years of age, and of standing for his Bachelor's degree. Probably the remoteness of his chance of succeeding

to a Scholarship induced him, after taking his B.A., to migrate back to Trinity College, where he had originally matriculated in 1612; and from his subsequent conduct the college had no cause to regret his action.

The document is sealed in the usual way with Dorothy's peculiar version of the Petre arms. Of the witnesses John Arnold is frequently mentioned. Verier's name occurs in schedule II.

I Dorothe Wadham of Edge in the Countye of Devon widdow doe decree and ordayne that when the next five Scollers places shalbe voyde in Wadham Colledge you that are the Warden and Fellowes then of that house shall imediatly chuse and admitt without delay or contradiction in the first place Thomas Porter for whome I have alreddy writen : in the seconde Thomas Crudge, in the thirde Lawrence Drake in the fourthe Edward Cliffe in the fite Alexander Gyll and in all these five places as they fale and are voyde they shall chuse accordinge to the meaninge of this schedule which I have sealed with mine owne seale and to which I have subscribed with mine owne hand the xxiiiith of Aprill 1615.

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Sealed in the presence of
John Arnold
Tho. Verier.

XVI.

JUNE 12, 1615.

It is clear that in spite of the foundress' liberality with regard to the Essex lands the college was finding itself in straits for money, particularly with regard to the £200 a year reserved by Dorothy for her life. The rents, which in 1613 amounted to £548 11s. 3d., fell in the next year to £435 4s. 9d., and in 1615 to £377 9s. 1d. How far this was due to the 'untrusty' dealings of Petre Whetcombe, or (as intimated in this letter) to the fault of the tenants, it is impossible to say: however, the new landlords can hardly have been to blame.

At any rate Dorothy generously reduced her reserved rent to £100 a year.

Sub-Warden Smith had apparently been absent from the college more than the forty days allowed by the Statutes, but the foundress 'would have' (i. e. wishes to have) it registered that this absence had her consent: he was clearly a favourite of hers, as was indeed proved by his subsequent selection as Warden.

My good Companye.

I am hartely sorrye that now (in your firste enterance) you should be so cumbered with bad Tenants. I praye take patientlye with me ther intended malices who have had a taste thereof thoughte (the worlde knoeth) I have better deserved then they have requited, but it will make me beware whome hereafter I repose sure confidence in as some of them have benn (by me) trusted with although to late which now cannot be recaled and because it shall not fale to hevilye emongste you I will rather lacke then (to the uttermost of my power) see your wants unreleevd and therfore know yee by theis that whereas you were to paye me two hundred pounds by the yere out of your Essex lands that now I doe hereby abate one hundred pounds therof duringe my life to be employed for such necessary occations as in yr. owne discreations shall be thought fitt. And whereas my Subwarden Mr. Smith was absent from this laste Michaellmas till the last Shrovetide (within which time I understande he returned to my Colledge) you are to take notice that he had my leave and dispensation which I would have registered that hereafter it be not any wronge & prejudice unto him. And soe with my Comendations to you all I leave you now and ever to the protection of Thalmightie. Edge the xiith of June 1615.

Your very loveinge foundresse

DOROTHE WADHAM.

To my very loveinge freinds the Warden Fellows and Scollers of Wadham Colledge geve these
in Oxon.

XVII.

NOVEMBER 6, 1615.

Transcript in the Convention Book.

In this letter we again become aware of the hand of steel in the velvet glove—Alexander Huish had been admitted full Fellow after a year's probation on June 30, 1615. But in spite of her letter of June 27, 1614 (XIII), the foundress considers that the Society have exceeded their powers in admitting him; and although she approves of the act, she desires them to register the fact that it was not till her approbation was signified that the admission was valid. It is obvious that there were those around her who were strongly interested in maintaining her claim to absolute dictation in the choice of Fellows and Scholars, and among these must be included even the faithful John Arnold, whose nephews were already Scholars of the college.

The foundress again nominates the eight officers to be chosen on St. Nicholas' Day, changing all except Mr. Smith, the Sub-Warden.

With regard to Dorothy's wish that her Company may behave themselves 'religiously,' 'obediently,' and 'lovingly,' I have already called attention to her desire that 'prayers and fasting days' should be strictly observed (XII), and this letter itself proves that she was inclined to regard any act of independence as a derogation of the obedience due to herself; and though it was not till after her death that serious quarrels broke out among the Fellows, Harington and Robert Arnold had probably already shown themselves somewhat unmanageable members of the body, and the reference to unity at the beginning of the next letter indicates that the foundress still felt some anxiety on the subject.

My good Warden,

The loue and care which I do beare towards my colledge hath given me occasion to write these few lines unto you; for understanding that about the last S^t Peeters day there was

one to be ratifyed and admitted fellow after his yeere of Probationershipp which according to my Statutes you performed, and yet being certefyed that this approbation and admission made by you is no effect during my Life, for that I have reserved all power (for that time) in mine owne hand, in regard of that laudable information which I have heard of him, I have bene willingly perswaded to joyne with you in this act of approbation and admission: and therefore by vertue of this my letter, I do approve and admitt Alexander Huish into the body of your fellowshipp, willing you to register this my letter, whereby it may appeare hereafter to be mine owne act. Understanding likewise that the officers of my colledge are to be chosen by my self, I do therefore by this give you notice, that for your Subwarden you choose M^r Smith, your Deane M^r Estcott, your Bursars M^r Harrington and M^r Pitts; Humanity Lecturer, M^r Payton, for your Catechist M^r Strode, Moderator of philosophy M^r Flexney, and your Subdeane S^r Flavell, and if I have forgotten any office (as it may be I have) then I leave it to my Warden to appoynt it. And so hoping that your whole Company will behave themselves religiously towards God obediently to my self, and lovingly one towards another, which wilbe an especiall comfort to me, with my best wishes I comend you to the protection of the Almighty and rest

Edge this vjth of
November 1615.

Your ever Loving Foundresse
DOROTHE WADHAM.

XVIII.

MAY 23, 1616.

If Dorothy was strict in asserting her rights, it was not from any want of tender love for this offspring of her old age. Here at the age of eighty-two she tells her Company that 'it is her only joy to understand of all their welfare.' Like most founders she seems to have made up her mind that no changes can be made in her Statutes 'after God shall

call her'; and so not only does she proceed to set right certain defects which have already been shown to exist, but also desires the Society to seize the opportunity of her length of life for discovering any further difficulties and obtaining her amendments. The fitness of her interpretation of the XIIIth Statute, that legitimate holidays and absence on college business should not deprive a man of his stipend and allowances, is obvious; but, as time went on, the actual wording of the Statute produced a curious result. Much of the college property was let on leases renewable for periodical fines, which together with 'Wood money' (that is, payments by tenants for cutting or lopping plantations) were divided periodically among the members of the Society. When, as at first, nearly all the members of the Society were in residence this worked well, but when the number of residents became fewer, while the words 'present corporally' were strictly interpreted, it became necessary for any one who wished to secure his dividend to journey to Oxford at the time of the distribution: no excuse of any kind, even sickness or detention in a madhouse, being accepted.

With regard to the 'painfulness' of the Chaplain's duties, it is not improbable that this arose from the prolonged absence of one of them. Thomas Randolph, who was admitted Senior Chaplain at the opening of the college, was at the same time a Fellow of Caius College, Cambridge, where between 1614 and 1617 he held the offices of Reader of Rhetoric, Reader of Greek, and Dean in succession. He can therefore have given but little time to Wadham, and must have left to Gilbert Stokes, the Junior Chaplain, the performance of the duties. Hence, no doubt, the readiness of Dorothy to assign to the one Chaplain the allowance of both: and it is to be noticed also that before this, on August 9, 1615, she had directed the Fellows to admit Stokes to the high table.

Sir John Strangways, who now secures a Scholar's place for his client, was the nephew and co-heir of Nicholas Wadham, being the son of Sir Giles Strangways by Joan, one of the three sisters of the founder. He contributed £100 towards

the cost of the great eastern window in the chapel. His portrait, taken at the age of seventy-eight, in 1663, hangs in the college hall.

John Larder appears to be the son of Robert Larder of Loders, and grandson of John Larder who married Mary Wadham, one of the Wadhams of Catherstone. He is again nominated Scholar on August 13, 1617, but, although he entered as Commoner in 1615, he had to wait for a vacancy among the Scholars till August, 1619. He eventually became a Probationer Fellow, but apparently his conduct did not satisfy the Seniors, for he was ordered to undergo a second year's probation, and promptly resigned his Fellowship. He eventually took orders in his native county of Dorset and held the rectory of Melbury Osmond.

In this letter the word 'paynfull' is used in the sense of requiring much pains, and Dorothy professes her wish to 'rite,' that is, 'set right,' anything amiss. 'Cosen' is used in the sense of kinsman, Sir John being her husband's nephew. The last words of the direction about Larder are not plain; the word 'stern' seems to make no sense; possibly the scribe wrote 'his stern' for 'his turn.'

My good Warden,

I have received from yourself and the most of your house a letter by the bearers thereof being likewise of your Company the first of whome doth much comfort me and often heareinge from you doth greatly revive my minde beinge myne only joie to understande of all your welfares and that ther is unitie amongst you. And because it shall apeere that my love is not waveringe nor that I am carelesse of your goode I doe hereby (beinge acquaynted with some defecte in my Statutes) signifie my minde touchinge some of them which I thinke fit to be amended. Whereas I understande that ther is a clause in my XIIIth Statute that whosoever is not present corporally in my Colledge shall for the time of his absence loose his allowance now because in my Statute I have granted them som time of absence every yere. And sometimes they ar imployed in my Colledge

affayers therfore I have thought it fitt to signifie this much (which is to remayne with you alwayes under Reegister) that my minde is not to debarr any of my foundacon of any of ther allowance at any of the foresayd times when either they are imployed by the Colledge or doe make use of that time which I have granted them. But at all other times when they ar absent I would have that clause of Statute to be inforced. And yet because the Chaplin's place is paynfull and troublesome beyonde others I would have this to be observed for them that at all times when any one of them is absente the whole allowance of both shalbe due unto him that is present dureinge such time as the other is absent. I would have you to be carefull in peruseinge your Statutes that yf any thinge be amisse in them I may know therof whereby I may rite it before God shall Cale me which afterwards cannot be by anye reformed. I have binn moved by my cosen Sir John Strangwayes that (when those Scollers which are alreddy registered are placed in my Colledge) I would be pleased to grante the next place that shall happen unto on John Larder his motion is soe powerfull with me as that I cannot denye him and therfore would have you to register the sayd John Larder to be plased as his stern comethe.

And soe with my true love to yourselfe and my wellwishes the whole Company doe leave you all to the protection of Thalmightye and rest alwayes your verye loveinge foundresse

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Edge Maye 23 1616.

To the right worttli Doctor Fleminge my good Warden of Wadham Colledge in Oxon geve these.

XIX.

OCTOBER 15, 1616.

The dispute as to the value of the Essex rents has evidently reached a crisis. Petre Whetcombe, who had been Mrs. Wadham's steward, having direct access to her, has

evidently succeeded so far in his own interest as to induce the foundress to leave the dispute to the course of law, which would seem to have been unfavourable to Whetcombe, as he was obliged to surrender his beneficial leases to the college and receive them again renewed by the Society.

The amendments in the Statutes to which reference is here made are not specified; but it is curious to contrast the humility of Dorothy in expressing her inexperience with the absolute strictness of her real rule. And while no doubt Warden Fleminge and Sub-Warden Smith saw to the careful observance of the Statutes, it is to be feared that Dorothy's last days were troubled by rumours of dissensions in her company, seeing her frequent exhortations to 'unity' and the avoidance of contention.

In the postscript the foundress again nominates the officers for the next St. Nicholas' Day, changing all of them, as previously, except Mr. Smith, the Sub-Warden.

My good Companye

I have received your letter in answere of my cosen Whetcombes note sent you which I have shewed him but cann make no pease with him and therfore doe leave you to your wills to doe them as your Counsell shall advise.

I am desirous in my life time to see your Colledge perfect and yf ther be anye defects which I maye redresse when you acquaynte me with them you shall finde me most reddye and willinge to reforme whatsoever is amisse. My experience in such matters is but small and therfore I must apeale unto your selves who lyve under the Government of them and maye easely find by your dayly experience what is wantinge. Of late I have understood of some things that are omitted and upon good advise had with such as well know how to supplye a remedye I have drawne out in Englisse (which here inclosed I send unto you) a coppye of that which I would have you faythfully to translate into Lattin and then to write it into my Booke of Statutes that there it maye remayne as a perpetuall wittnes of my will and intent and to be of no

lesse force then any of my former Statutes. I am perswaded that you wilbe carefull and willinge to observe them for hetherto I have had great comforte in you and I hope you will not prove lesse respectfull and observaunt of me and my Colledge hereafter. Your oathes doe binde you unto the good and credit of my Colledge, and I cannot doubt but that you wilbe most carefull to observe whatever such a bond doth enjoyne you. And of all things I would have you to avoyde Contentyons amongst yourselves for without true charity ther cannot be true societie. And soe beseechinge God to lesse you and your endeavours and studdyes I rest

Your loveinge Foundresse

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Edge this xvth
of October 1616.

The time of electinge officers in my Colledge is now drawinge one and therfore in this postscripte of my letter I have nominated them.

The SubWarden Mr. Smithe. The Deane Mr. Pitts.

The Bursars Mr. Ancktell, The Humanity Reader

Mr. Escott. Mr. Puleston.

The Cathekiste Mr. Osborne. The Subdeane S^r. Flavell.

The Moderator of Philosophy

Mr. Payton.

To my good Company the Warden and Fellows of Wadham Colledge in Oxon geve these with speede.

XX.

MARCH 19, 161⁶₁₇.

Warden Fleming died on March 16, 161⁶₁₇, and was buried on March 26, in the inner chapel near the communion table. The college must have dispatched the news of his death very promptly, for the distance from Oxford to Edge is not less than 120 miles, and yet here we have the foundress appointing his successor in a legal document dated the 19th. Two possible reasons may be assigned for this speed: no

doubt the health of the foundress was precarious, and it was desirable to obtain from her a speedy confirmation of the Society's desire for the succession of William Smith; but also the interference of the king and of others in authority was much to be dreaded with a view of securing the election of some favourite.

Smith was admitted to the Wardenship on March 24. He governed the college successfully till 1635, when he resigned, perhaps with a view to marriage, and retired to his rectory of Tredington in Worcestershire, where he lived till 1658.

Here again, as in letter VII, the document is dated by the regnal year. Of the witnesses we may notice that Henry Ancketyll was at this time Fellow and Senior Bursar, and was in all probability the messenger dispatched by the Society to announce their loss: Arnold, Drayton, and Verier have occurred as witnesses before. One George Jacob was at this time under-butler, and may have accompanied Ancketyll as servant on his long ride to Edge.

The parchment is sealed with a large seal in red wax bearing the arms of Petre as used by Dorothy. It is folded over, and signed and witnessed on the back.

To all Xian people to whome this present writinge shall come I Dorotheie Wadham late wife of Nicholas Wadham of Merefeild in the County of Somset Esqr. deceased send greetinge in the Lord God everlastinge whereas I the said Dorotheie Wadham have reserved full power and authoritie in my selfe duringe my naturall life in my Colledge called Wadham Colledge in the Universitye of Oxon of the foundation of my said late husband Nicholas Wadham to give dispose nomate and appointe the place and office of Warden of the said Colledge whensoever the same shall happen to be voyde either by death surrender or otherwise unto anie fitt and hable person as I shall nomate and appointe and whereas the said place and office of Warden is nowe become voyde by the death of John Flemynge Doctor in Divinity late Warden of the said Colledge: Nowe know ye that I the

said Dorothie Wadham have nominated appointed and made sure by these presents doe nominate appoint & make William Smith Mr. of Arts and one of the Fellows of the said Colledge to have use and exercise the said place and office of Warden of Wadham Colledge aforesaid and next to succeed the said John Flemynge in the said office of Warden: To have hold use exercise occupie and enjoy the said office of Warden of Wadham Colledge during his naturall life: Together with all Fees stipends profitts and comodities whatsoever belonging to the said office of Warden in as large and ample manner as the said John Flemynge did hold and enjoy the same: and I the said Dorothie Wadham do by these presents praie and require the Fellows & Schollers of the said Colledge upon sight hereof to admitt the said William Smith to the said office of Warden without further delaie and this my writing shalbe sufficient warrant in that^r behalfe. In witnes whereof I the said Dorothie Wadham have hereto putt my hand and seale the nyneteenth day of March in the fourteenth year of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lord James by the grace of God King of England, Fraunce & Ireland defender of the faith &c. and of Scotland the fiftith

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Signed sealed and delivered to the use of the within named William Smith in the presence of

John Arnold

Henry Ancketyll

Thomas Verier

Thomas Drayton

George Jacob.

XXI.

MARCH 20, 161 $\frac{1}{2}$.

It would seem that Henry Ancketyll carried back this letter to Oxford with the preceding 'schedule.'

We cannot doubt that the foundress was much grieved to find herself again obliged so soon to nominate a Warden; but she had had some experience of William Smith: he was now thirty-four years of age, and had held the office of Sub-Warden

since the college was opened. She was therefore ready to accept what appears to have been the unanimous wish of the Fellows, particularly as by so doing she would anticipate certain 'courses' of which she had previously had much taste, according to her own account; though no record remains of any attempt to influence or control the directions of one with whom it would appear to have been rash to interfere. At any rate, she takes care that there shall be no mistake as to her intentions about the vacancies caused by Smith's promotion.

John Goodridge, though he held no office at this time, had already been Dean (1613) and Bursar (1614), and was indeed older than Smith, but being a student in the Faculty of Medicine was not eligible for the Wardenship. Flavell, who is nominated as Fellow, and whose probation is to be limited to three months, was at this time holding the office of Sub-Dean for the second year in succession. On taking his M.A. in June of this year he was 'Senior of the Act,' and Wood states that he was chosen Public Professor of Grammar in the University; but his career was cut short by his early death in the ensuing Michaelmas Term. Wood dates his death November 10; but the college records state that he was buried in the north part of the outer chapel on some day in October, and the next entry of burials refers to 'the beginning of November'; when, however, we consider how speedily the foundress filled up vacancies, and find that Flavell's death is not noticed by her till November 21 (see letter XXVI), it would seem probable that Wood's date is the correct one.

By Flavell's promotion Thomas Porter, the Bishop of Exeter's grandson, who had now been waiting about three years and was close upon his Bachelor's degree, obtained a Scholarship.

Dorothy's reference to 'worth' in her concluding paragraph recalls her reasons for selecting Huish for the first vacant Fellowship, while the addition of the word 'unity' seems to hint, as we have before noticed, that there were some dissensions in the Society (see letters XVII and XIX).

The direction 'give these with speed' had, it would seem,

something more than its conventional meaning on the present occasion.

The usual seal is attached to the letter, but it is impressed upon sealing-wax instead of paper over wax.

My good Companye

I cannott chuse but joyne with you in sorow for the losse of soe worthye a Warden in whome my harte was well settled but seeinge the pleasure of Thalmightye is soe, his will be donn. The greatest love and care which I doe and have ever borne hetherto towards my Colledge hath binn to prevent any inconvenience which might happen therunto. And therefore doubtinge what courses may be used (which before now I have had to much tast of) am willinge to joyne likewise with you for the speedy chuseinge of a new warden. And because I finde such unitie amongst yourselves I have elected him whome your owne hands (and I hope harts) have desired as you shall understand by a Scedule under my hande and seale for that purpose Desireing and requireinge you upon sight therof without delaye to admitt him as your Warden after the Oathe geven him apoynted in my Statutes for the Warden hopeinge that his Carriage in government will answer your expectations and my desires; in this my choyce ther wilbe two or three places voyde therby as namelye a Subwarden, a fellow and a scoller therefore because I will conclude all together for your Subwarden I doe apoynte Mr. Goodridge for the fellow to succeed Mr. Smithe (now by me chosen to be your Warden) I doe apoynte S^r Flavell willinge you to admitt him as a probationer untill the daye of Election cometh and then (for the good I have hard of him) doe require you to admitt him without delaye into the body of your fellowshipp without being any more probationer; and for the Scoller to succede him my will is that you chuse and admitt Thomas Porter whome I have alreddy decreed and ordeyned for that place. Thus you shall see my love towards you is such that as I finde worth and unitye emongst you I will

ever preferr the best deservinge. And soe not doubtinge of
your speedy fullfillinge my desires herein doe with my best
well wishes commend you all to the protection of Thalmighty
and rest your assured loveinge foundresse

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Edge this xxth of
March 1616.

To my loveinge Companye the Fellowes and Scollers of
Wadham Colledge in Oxon geve these with speede.

XXII.

AUGUST 13, 1617.

In this document we see the foundress using to the full
her reserved powers of nomination. A vacancy having
occurred among the Scholars by the resignation of Walter
Stonehouse, who would appear to have migrated to Magdalen
College, her dependants and friends seem to have thought
that it would be well to secure what they could before her
end came, which could not now be long delayed.

Of the five Scholars already nominated Thomas Crudge
was to succeed Stonehouse; and Alexander Gill having already
taken his B.A. had resigned his clerkship, and had probably
returned to his original college, Trinity. The three remaining
names appear at the head of this list and then six more
follow. Of these William Drake was successful in obtaining a
Scholarship in December, 1618; and was eventually, though
not without some difficulty, elected Fellow. Richard Arnold,
the next, was evidently a kinsman of John, and of his two
cousins William and Robert, who were already Scholars. He
was admitted Scholar in October, 1619, but was never elected
Fellow. George Savage may have been one of the Savages
of Bloxworth in Dorset, but he never came into residence or
obtained a Scholarship. William Turner was the son of a
Somersetshire parson, and at this time aged thirteen: he
obtained his Scholarship in May, 1620. In 1628 he was elected

Probationer, and full Fellow in the following year. After a distinguished career at the Bar he became a judge of the Court of Admiralty and Probate, and Chancellor of Winchester, and died in 1670. He entered three sons at the college, William and John (1661), and Brian (1678). Of these, John was tried for the death of a Bible clerk of Exeter College, July 25, 1664, but escaped, says Wood, by the influence of his father. Edward Abraham, the son of a Devonshire minister, was already in residence at this time: he became a Scholar in May, 1620, and a Fellow (after three years probation) in 1632; after ten years tenure he died on St. Nicholas' Day, 1642, and was buried in the chapel.

Thomas Raw, the last nominated, never obtained a place in the college. One of this name, probably his father, will be found among the witnesses to document XXXV, and was therefore in some way included in the family of the foundress.

The names of the witnesses to this schedule are all familiar. Ancketyll, the Fellow, may have carried down the tidings of Stonehouse's resignation, or may have been resident in the house at Edge as Chaplain.

We have Dorothy's usual Petre seal impressed on sealing-wax.

I Dorothe Wadham of Edge in the Countye of Devon Widdow by these presents do decree & ordaine that you the Warden & Fellowes of Wadham Colledge in Oxford when you shall have admitted Thomas Crudge unto the Schollers place in your said Colledge which now is voide by the late resignation of Walter Stonehouse that then hereafter upon other or the like vacancyes without delay or contradiction you admitte into the first place Laurence Drake, in the second Edward Clyffe in the third John Larder in the fourth William Drake in the fifth place Richard Arnold in the sixth George Savage in the seventh William Turner in the eighth Edward Abraham in the ninth place Thomas Raw. All which forenamed (as your Schollers places shall happen to be voyde) my will is that they be admitted by you according to the

- tenour & true meaning of the Schedule which I have sealed with mine owne seale and whereunto I have subscribed with mine owne hand the thirteenth day of August 1617 in the presence of

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Henry Ancketyll
John Arnold
Tho. Verier
Thomas Drayton.

XXIII.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1617.

This letter, though signed by John Arnold, is so evidently part of the foundress' correspondence that it is naturally included here. Arnold, however, takes advantage of the fact that his mistress is not going to sign it to express plainly his own views as to how her wishes should be received.

The matter refers to the Essex estates, of which 'cosen Petre Whetcombe' had been steward, and where he seems to have secured for himself a beneficial lease of one large piece of the property called the manor of Moorhall. This appears to have led to the institution of a Chancery suit, the college being desirous to recover full possession of the property ; nor was Whetcombe at first regarded with favour by Dorothy ; but she is old and feels that her end is near, and wearied probably by Whetcombe's importunity, she desires that the college should carry out a compromise arranged by a decree in Chancery, whereby Whetcombe resigns the lease of the *manor* of Moorhall, and receives a lease of the *demesnes* of the manor for the rest of his term ; and this in spite of the Statute to the contrary 'that the college is to grant no lease of the "manors," nor of any *demesnes* for more than twenty years.' She is willing that the college should suffer some loss in order that the matter may have a quiet end ; and Arnold does not hesitate to point out that the expression of her wish must be regarded as a command.

As to the second matter mentioned, it would seem that the lands belonging to the alms-houses, founded by Sir William Petre in 1557 for seven men and three women at Ingatestone, had been included in the Essex estates bestowed upon the college, but the foundress wishes that the rent of these should remain a fixed sum, so that her father's charitable work may not be impaired: and again Arnold expresses his opinion that 'if much loss be not received thereby,' the Society ought to yield to her desire.

The last few lines of the letter beginning at 'so in hast' are written sideways on the left-hand margin (border) of the paper: and the letter is sealed in sealing-wax with Arnold's seal, as described in letter VII.

Worthy Warden,

I am willed by my mistris to acquaynte you that she hath of late benn moved aboute two or three businesses which conserneth your Colledge the particulars wherof hereafter followeth. Vid. Wheras by a decree in the Chancery it was ordered that Mr. Whetcombe should resigne his interest in the manor of Moorhale in the county of Essex to the use of Wadham Colledge and that therupon he should have a lease of the whole demeasnes of the same mannor for soe many yeres as was then to come in his lease formerly made for a reasonable rent and upon reasonable condicions The sayd Mr. Whetcombe haveinge performed the decree in this respect on his parte it is desired that the Colledge may doe the like, the Statutes of the Colledge to the contrary notwithstanding, and whereas by the first lease he held the mannor for cxi li by the year by the decree he hath lost about xiiii li by the year by the quitrent and Stewardshipp and yett is contented for the avoydinge of further troble yf noe consideration may be had of that loss of his to take the demeansnes at the rent first agreed upon which was cxi li by the yere with the same covenants my mistris is very willinge you should yeeld to some losse to have a quiet end and therfore would have you propose it to your companye that she may as soon

as may be have ther answere. I could wishe that the Company would consent of themselves thereunto because I finde by her she is partely resolved to have it soe yf your reasons to the contrary be not to powerfull with her. You must consider likewise that yf she should inrole in your Colledge that upon every alienation or death ther be noe fine or other charge imposed upon the lands given by her noble father to the almsmen in Inगतstone being parcell of the mannor of Frierninge in the County of Essex and this to remayne from age to age other than the ancient rent accustomed yearly for the same) what losse or hinderance this will be unto you she desireth to have yr. answere herein beinge bent rather to add than to draw away from a good worke which was donn by her father. As before soe in this if much losse be not received therby yeeld that which I know is her desire: and so in hast as this boarder cann informe you doe with my kinde respects to yourselfe and my treue love to all my good frends there doe take my leave and remayne ever yrs. dureinge liffe & power

JOHN ARNOLD.

Edge the xxvth of September 1617.

To the wor^{ll} and worthy Warden of Wadham Colledge my especiall good frinde Mr. William Smythe geve these in Oxon.

XXIV.

OCTOBER 21, 1617.

This letter, which is dated within one month of the last, refers to the same business. Obviously a reply had been received from the college to the effect that, while they left all 'to the will and pleasure' of their foundress, they thought that such a lease as she desired them to grant would not hold good in law. Dorothy, however, is very eager to conclude the business, and not only has Whetcombe stated that he is ready to take the lease with its risk, but he has also added to his own importunity the desire of a kinsman ('my honourable cousin'), presumably William, Lord Petre.

The college seems also to have agreed readily to Arnold's suggestion with regard to the alms-houses at Ingatestone.

The tenderness of the foundress towards her infant foundation is to be noticed in her unwillingness to send them a messenger of ill news, such as the diminution of their rental, which will be the result of compliance with her request; and it is clear that the 'contentious' Whetcombe would not have obtained his wishes but for his appeal to some 'act' of her late husband Nicholas, which Dorothy (whether the statement is true or not) is unwilling to have questioned: certain words were originally written after the parenthesis 'as they pretend,' but they have been carefully blotted out.

My good Company,

I have been earnestly intreated by my cosen Whetcome takeing hold that you leave all to my will and pleasure to prevayle soe farr with you as that you would grante him a new lease accordinge to the decree of the demeanes for the rent formerly payd by him and he will willingly undergoe the danger of the Lawe whether it be avaylable or noe, thinkinge it is probable that by the same authoritye his former lease was caused to be resigned by the same power he may have a new lease his importunitye together with my honorable cosen's desire have caused an yeeldinge in me to ther requests and therefore doe praye you forthwith to passe him a lease of the sayd Demeanses for soe manye yeres as was to com in his former at the rente of CXL^{li} by the yere. I know it will be some losse unto you yet shall you free yourselves from all suits with him whome I finde bent to be contencious and therby free me also of some troble, when I understand you ar settled in peace. Touchinge the request made unto me for the Almsmen of Ingatestone I have apoynted that ther Counsell shall set downe in what sort it may be recorded for ther assurance (reservinge the rent) and it shall be donn: I have binn ever unwillinge to send any ill newes unto you or messenger which should not be welcomed by you yet this for my cosen Whetcombe hath overswayed me in regard cheefest

that your Founders name (and acte as they pretend) should be so questioned, beare with this once and I promise it shall not be often that I will doe the like. And soe with my best wishes and prayers to Thalmighty to keepe you in peace and unitye on with another doe leave you all to his protection and myself will remanye alwayes

Your assured loveinge foundresse
DOROTHE WADHAM.

Edge this xxith of October 1617.

To my loveinge frindes the Warden and Fellowes of Wadham Colledge in Oxon geve these with speed.

XXV.

OCTOBER 21, 1617.

Transcript in the Convention Book.

This second letter of the same date as the one before is addressed to the Warden instead of the Company, and contains the nomination of officers for the ensuing feast of St. Nicholas. Once more, and for the last time, the foundress changes all the officers.

My good warden,

Understanding from you that the Election of your officers for the next yeere draweth on and that it resteth in me to appoynt them during my life know therefore that for your Subwarden I would have chosen M^r Brunker for yor Bursars M^r Goodridge and M^r Osborne for your Deane M^r Pitt for your Humanity Reader M^r Huish for your Catechist M^r Flexney for your Moderator in Philosophy M^r Eastcott for yor Subdeane S^r Hext. Charging you to looke unto them that every one in their severall offices be carefulle according to their oathes to advance the good of my College in all that any way apperteynes unto them. Thus not doubting both

your care and their performance thereof doe with my comendes
to yourself leave you to the protection of the Allmighty and
remayne allwayes

Your assured loving Foundres
DOROTHE WADHAM.

Edge this 21 of October
1617.

XXVI.

NOVEMBER 21, 1617.

The death of John Flavell, who had only been admitted actual Fellow on the previous 30th of June, occurred on November 10 (according to Wood), and he was buried (on a day not named) in the north part of the outer chapel. In the college manuscript the month is stated as 'October,' but this is probably an error, otherwise his death would have been mentioned in the previous letter. (See Introduction to letter XXI.)

The name of the Scholar chosen to succeed him is spelt in various ways, Brewen by Dorothy, Bruen by the college, Bruden in the Matriculations, Brun in the Visitation of 1623. After all, as the foundress calls him 'cosen' (i.e. kinsman), we may presume that he is to be identified with the third son of Henry Brune who married Elizabeth Martin, daughter of Margaret Wadham (the sister and co-heiress of Nicholas) and Henry Martin of Athelhampton. He was the Senior Scholar appointed at the opening of the college, and was now twenty-one years of age. After taking his degree as Master of Arts (May 4, 1619) he obtained leave to travel for three years, with the usual proviso that he did not visit Rome. He resigned his Fellowship on March 25, 1625. It is to be observed that, as being founder's kin, he was to be admitted actual Fellow at once: Amias Hext, on the other hand, is to remain a Probationer till the morrow of St. Peter, 1618, in the event of Swadell's resignation permitting him to be elected Fellow before that date. John Swadell, it will be remembered, was

appointed one of the original Fellows, although not a graduate, out of gratitude to his grandfather, Dr. Bisse, for the present of his library. He took his B.A. on July 2, 1616: the exact date of the resignation of his Fellowship does not appear: the reason may have been marriage, as he retained his connexion with the college and took his M.A. in 1619.

It is not clear what other resignation was expected among the Fellows: but possibly with those suitors whose importunity Dorothy desires to avoid the wish was father to the thought. At any rate Robert Arnold, whom John appears to have selected in preference to William, did not obtain his Fellowship till after the death of the foundress.

Laurence Drake, who succeeds to Bruen's Scholarship, had been nominated first on April 24, 1615, and again on August 13, 1617. He vacated his Scholarship, apparently without graduating, in the interval between St. Peter's Day, 1619, and 1620.

My good Company,

I was not a little sorry when I understood of the death of Mr. Flavell for the good reporte I have harde of him but seeinge it was Gods pleasure for to have it his will must be and we contented therewith. It now resteth in my power to name one to succeede him and therefore know yee that my will is the next day after the receipt hereof you chuse in his place my cosen Brewen and in regard that ther is noe more in my house of the Founder's kinn my will is that you presently admitt him into the body of your Fellowship without beinge probationer according to my Statutes. Also my will is that when Mr Swadel hath resigned you presently the next day after chuse in his place Amias Hext as a probationer untill the daye of election cometh which is set down in my Statutes and then admitt him into the body of your fellowshippe without beinge longer probationer. I understand that ther is one other fellowshipp likely to be voyd shortly. I am willing therfore (to free myself from the importunity of suitors) to lett you know beforehande my minde herein. I doe therfore decree and ordeyne that when the next fellow-

shipp shall happen to be voyde after those two before spoken, you that are the Warden and Fellowes of my Colledge shall immediatly chuse and admitt without any delaye or contradiction such a one as my servant John Arnold shall nominate unto you of his cosens ther Scollers in his place as a probationer untill the day of election apoynted in my Statutes and then presently to admitt him into the body of your fellowship accordinge to the meaninge of this my writeinge. As for scollers to succede them I would have you to place as they stande allreddy decreed by me the first as I take it is Lawrence Drake whome I wish well unto and would have you presently admitt him as a Scoller in your house. And soe wisheinge all happynesse unto you all desireinge Thalmighty to bless your good indeuours doe leave you to his protection and remayne ever your loveinge foundresse

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Edge this xxith of November 1617.

To my very loveinge Companye the Warden & Fellowes of Wadham Colledge in Oxforde geve these.

XXVII.

DECEMBER 2, 1617.

Though the foundress is still in good health, this letter from John Arnold, addressed to Warden Smith, is sent to cover Dorothy's letter of the same date. 'My countryman' is, it would seem, Henry Ancketyll, who was the third son of Christopher Ancketyll, of East Almer in Dorset, and was already a Master of Arts of University College when he was nominated to a Fellowship by the foundress. He seems to have been a favourite of hers, and possibly her Domestic Chaplain at one time. The 'hurte' to which Arnold refers is apparently three years' leave of absence without any loss of stipend. Ancketyll's permission to travel is registered in the Convention Book, with the usual proviso that he must not visit Rome. If he spent his three years abroad, he

resigned his Fellowship soon after his return on December 14, 1621, having been appointed Rector of Mells in Somerset (a family living) February 27, 1620. He took a prominent part in the Civil War, and was Governor of Corfe Castle on the king's side. For his services to the royal cause he was nominated by the king for the degree of D.D. January 16, 1642. That his orders did not interfere with his use of carnal weapons may be gathered from the fact that, whether he had a right to the title or no, the Roundheads dubbed him 'Colonel,' and he was known among them as 'the priest and malignant doctor.' His subsequent career is not to be traced, but he is not likely to have escaped the vengeance of the victorious party: no successor, however, was appointed to Mells till 1662, before which time he was probably dead, as he was born apparently in 1588; indeed, Wood says that he died before the Restoration.

It seems that John Arnold finds it necessary to write a letter of advice to Robert (Robin) Arnold; having secured the nomination to the next Fellowship for one of his kinsmen he feels entitled to call him to order, pointing out that behaviour in college will decide his choice between Robert and William.

We have no evidence as to the 'old desires' of Gilbert Stokes, the Chaplain: we know that he had been assigned a seat at the high table and was to receive the stipend of both Chaplains in the absence of his colleague: it may be that he wished to be allowed to take pupils or to change his rooms. At any rate the refusal of his request did not prevent his retaining his position in the college till his death in 1654 at the age of 71, when he was buried in the chapel.

This letter has John Arnold's seal.

Worthy Warden,

I have here inclosed sent you a letter from my mistris which answeres my cuntrymans expectation. I have therin set down his requeste to com freely from herselfe that it may not apeere he sought soe much hurte to the Colledge which

I thought best. I have writen to Robin Arnold which letter yf you would take occasion to aske for and withall to let him know your minde. My last letter unto you is cause enough to talke with him, because therin I mentioned that who pleased you best should best please me. I cann write you noe newes here, hence if you meete any I praye let us be partakers with you. My mistris is well and kindly comends her unto you. I wonder Mr. Stoaks continues his old desires haveinge so often binn answered therin. And soe in hast with a treu harte will never cease to be at your Comande

till death JOHN ARNOLD.

Edge this second of December 1617.

I must not forgett my servis to yourselfe and love to all my good frinds in Colledge and out.

To the Right wor^{ll} my aproved good frinde Mr. William Smyth Warden of Wadham Colledge in Oxon these.

XXVIII.

DECEMBER 2, 1617.

Transcript in the Convention Book.

This letter was enclosed in the previous one from Arnold, and refers to Ancketyll's leave to travel.

It explains the 'hurte' which the Company would sustain by his absence; for not only would 'Domus' suffer, but also all the Fellows would have their emoluments diminished if for three years Ancketyll was to be treated as if personally present: personal presence being required by the Statutes from all who wished to share in a distribution of dividends.

My good Warden,

I have been lately solicited that M^r Ancketyll (who is one of your fellows in my College) might have my good will to travell beyond the seas for some time; his request is so reasonable as I am well contented therewith and because he is

the first that goeth abroad, I will adde a litle to his desires, I heare so well of him, as I make no doubt, but he will make good use of his journey. And therefore would have both you and my Company understand that notwithstanding my statutes in that behalf, which allowes but ten poundes yeerely, he shall during the whole time of his absence receive all such stipend allowance and comodity from my College, as should be due unto him were he personally there present: with this condition only, that he returne within the space of three yeeres, and begin his travells within twelve monethes, after the date hereof. So comending me unto you and your whole Society, I rest

Edge this 2nd of
December 1617.

Your ever loving Foundres
DOROTHE WADHAM.

XXIX.

DECEMBER 8, 1617.

This document secures that both the Arnolds shall succeed to Fellowships, though their order of succession is still left to the decision of their kinsman John. Compared with Flavell, Huish, and Hext, they were by no means deserving of the selection. Robert's behaviour seems to have earned a rebuke from John, and he appears to have been of a factious disposition, while William's conduct was such as required to be punished by the Fellows. However, Robert was admitted Fellow on June 30, 1619, and William on June 30, 1621, apparently after a year's probation in spite of the tenor of this schedule.

Of the witnesses to this document except Arnold nothing appears to be known. Nicholas Hewes was probably one of the 'Huish' family.

Dorothy uses her customary Petre seal.

I Dorothe Wadham of Edge in the Countye of Devon Widdow doe decree and ordeyne that (whereas I have allreddy writen unto you for the Regestringe of the next Fellowes place that shall happen for one of my servant Arnolds kinsmen

now Scollers in my Colledge when that place beforespoken of is donne accordinge to your former directions) then the next fellowshipp that shall happen after to be voyde you that are the Warden and Fellowes of my Colledge in Oxforde shall immediatly chuse and admitt without delay or contradiction the other of his kinsmen as a probationer untill the day of election shall come and then to admitt him into the body of your fellowshippe accordinge to the meaneinge of this Schedule which I have sealed with myne owne seale and to which I have subscribed myne owne hande the viiith of December 1617

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Signed sealed and delivered
in the presence of
John Arnold
Nicholas Hewes
Richard Gadden.

XXX.

DECEMBER 23, 1617.

Transcript in the Convention Book.

This brief document extends Mr. Brunckard's leave by two months beyond the legitimate six weeks. This must have been inconvenient, as he had taken office as Sub-Warden on the previous December 6, but it may have been connected with his appointment as Chaplain to the King. He never held office again in the college and resigned his Fellowship in the course of 1620-1. He is said to have been appointed Vicar of Cropredy, Oxon, in 1619.

Whereas my Statutes doth give leave but for sixe weekes absence from my Colledge in every yeere. These are therefore to signify that it is my will and pleasure to grant Mr. Brouncker now one of my Fellowes two monethes more in every yeere whilst he abides in my Colledge. In wittness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seale this three and twentyeth of December 1617

DOROTHE WADHAM.

XXXI.

FEBRUARY 24, 161 $\frac{7}{8}$.

Another brief document, the signature of which is much blotted and the seal has been cut off. By chapter xi of the Statutes disputations were to be held in hall between six and eight o'clock in the evening, which would in those days be after supper. It was permitted to the Dean or any deputy presiding in his place to shorten these exercises to one hour, or even half an hour on feast days or for a reasonable cause, and one cannot but suspect the 'causa rationabilis et legitima' must have received a liberal interpretation.

I Dorothe Wadham of Edge in the County of Devon Widdow doe decree and ordayne that the time of suppinge and the disputations that have binn after supper may be att any howers at the discretion of the Warden soe farr forthe that the length of the disputations be not contracted or shortened: which I comande be diligently observed and still continued for that length of tyme as is expressed in my Statutes.

In wittnes whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the xxivth of Febrewary 1617

DOROTHE WADHAM.

XXXII.

FEBRUARY 24, 161 $\frac{7}{8}$.

Again it would seem that great suit must have been made to the foundress for nominations to Scholarships. Of those already nominated by her (August 13, 1617) there are still eight on the list, and she now proceeds to nominate five more, whereby as a matter of fact she stretched her power ten years beyond her life.

Of those herein nominated Gilbert Drake and James

Collins were elected Scholars, June 30, 1620, but Richard Goodridge had to wait till July 3, 1627, and was even then only fifteen years of age, so that his uncle John, at this time Senior Fellow and Bursar, must have obtained a nomination for his nephew at the age of six.

Gilbert Drake, who was preferred to Henry (who never entered the University), had already been a member of the college for more than a year, and only just succeeded in obtaining his Scholarship before taking his B.A. After holding it for five years he was chosen Fellow and began to hold the college offices, but he died at the early age (as it seems to us) of twenty-nine, though his epitaph in the chapel describes him as of middle age (*media aetate*) and attributes to him remarkable learning, piety, and virtue: he died on March 2, 162 $\frac{8}{9}$, and was buried in the outer chapel.

James Collins, whom Dorothy calls the son of an apothecary (i. e. general practitioner), was elected Scholar on June 30, 1620, but matriculated as the son of a minister on June 8, 1621, being then aged fifteen. At the end of four years he was removed from his Scholarship: no reason is assigned, but prolonged absence seems the probable cause.

Alexander Goodridge did not enter the University, but Richard Goodridge, who was nominated by the foundress when a child of six, was destined to a varied career and to carry the memory of his benefactress through the storms of the Civil War well on into the peaceful days which, in Oxford at least, followed the Restoration. Having matriculated in 1626 he was, after one year's residence, admitted Scholar on the morrow of St. Peter, 1627. Nine years later he obtained his Fellowship and began to hold the college offices. But from December, 1643, to Midsummer, 1648, his leave of absence is regularly renewed at intervals of three and six months: so that although he was occasionally elected to offices it is probable that he was absent from Oxford during the whole of the War. In 1648 he was expelled from his Fellowship by the Parliamentary visitors as one who had been long absent; but in 1660 his Fellowship was restored, and he was twice elected Sub-Warden. He continued to

hold his Fellowship till November, 1666, when he resigned. He had, as will be seen, far exceeded the statutory tenure of a Fellowship, viz. eighteen years from Regency, which term would have expired in 1654: so it seems that the twelve years during which he suffered deprivation were not counted. He appears to have become Rector of Combhay in Somerset in 1644, nor is his successor appointed till 1662: but it does not follow that he held the living throughout these stormy times: nor is anything known of his career after his resignation.

The two remaining nominees, Thomas and Jasper Frankcom, never obtained their Scholarships, nor did they apparently enter the University. I have not been able to trace the kinship between their mother and the foundress.

This document has no address: but it is sealed with Dorothy's usual Petre seal on paper over wax.

I Dorothe Wadham of Edge in the Countye of Devon Widdow doe decree and ordayne that when those places which are alreddy decreed by me and by you also registred ar admitted accordinge to the meaninge of my former Schedule. Then you that ar the Warden and Fellowes of Wadham Colledge in Oxforde shall hereafter upon other or the like vacancies without delaye or contradiction admitt into the first place either Gylbert Drake or Henry Drake sonnns of John Drake of Littleham in the County of Devon in the second place James Collins sonn of James Collins of Exeter Pothycary, in the third place either Alexander Goodridge or Richarde Goodridge nephewes unto John Goodridge now fellow of your house, in the fowerth place Thomas Frankcom and in the fifth place Jesper Frankcom both sonnns of my cosen Dorothe Frankcom widdow all which (as your Scollerships shall happen to be voyde) my will is that they be admitted by you accordinge to the tenour and trew meaninge of this Schedule which I have subscribed with myne owne hande the xxiiiith of Febrewary 1617

DOROTHE WADHAM.

XXXIII.

MARCH 16, 161 $\frac{1}{8}$.

The end is coming near: the foundress is bedridden. She has been very ill and does not get better; all that can be said is that 'she holdeth at a stay' or gets no worse. She is still as keen as ever as to her rights and duties with regard to her 'Company' as it exists, but is not well enough to be wearied with further requests for promises. John Willis, who had graduated B.A. on February 25, 161 $\frac{1}{8}$, appears to have absented himself from college without leave, and the foundress, while willing to overlook the absence if the college agrees, is quite resolute that he shall reap no advantage thereby.

Of the troublesome conduct of Robert Arnold we have already heard: it would seem that nothing but the absolute direction of the foundress could have induced the Society to make him a Fellow, which they did on June 30, 1619: he continued most troublesome, and was removed from among the five Seniors by the Visitor in 1623. He lived ten years longer and died in June, 1635, being buried in the ante-chapel.

He must not be confused with another Robert Arnold who was Chaplain about June, 1617.

We shall see later on that John Arnold was successful in securing for William Boswell the nomination to a Fellowship.

There is no clue as to the 'things done at London,' but the business referred to probably concerned the Essex property.

This letter has Arnold's seal in sealing-wax.

Worthy Warden,

I wishe from my harte that I could write you newes of my mistris recovery or at leaste that she weare in the mendinge hande which I cannot only this comferte we have she holdeth at a stay her stomack contineweth well although she be altogether bedrinden for she is not able to sitt upp longer then her bedd is makinge. I pray God strengthen her yf it be

God's will, to whome I comitt her and us all. My mistris hath been moved to dispense with S^r Willis as will appeer by this inclosed but will yeeld to noe thing until she be advertised from you what she should doe in such a case yf you thinke it fitt that she grante him time of a yere for his returne it may be she may be drawn therunto. But by noe meanes she will not yett here that he shall have any allowance from the house departing as he did nor will grante noe cominge ther agayne without you shall advise her soe to doe. I can hardly be drawn to send Robin Arnold his quarterage formerly geven by me were it not that I wishe him better then he hath grace to conceive and also doubtinge his former frantick tricks. I pray let him not be untold by you wherby he may the better know himselfe. I understande now that all things were donn at London as I apoynted. My mistris is in no case to be delt with for any reversiones and I thinke will hardly yeeld any yf it were moved but I will assure you yf I cann worke for the good of Will Boswell I will perform (for your sake as well as for his fathers) more then I will speake of. And so with my due remembrance to yourselfe and kind comends to all my good frinds ther doe committ you to Thalmighty and rest ever

your assured poore frind to comand

JOHN ARNOLD.

Edge this 16th of March 1617.

To the Right Worth my assured good frinde Mr. William Smythe Warden of Wadham in Oxon geve these.

XXXIV.

APRIL 8, 1618.

John Willis must have had a friend in the Warden, for in this document not only does the foundress grant the licence of absence which he required, but extends it to the following Michaelmas, and even goes so far as to reverse her former decision that he should lose his stipend for the time of his

absence. Presumably he returned to college by the time specified, and in less than a year we find him presented to the college vicarage of Hockleigh in Essex. Warden Smith (patron *pro hac vice*) subsequently presented him in 1630 to the vicarage of Ingatestone in the same county, which he seems to have held through the troubled period of the Civil War, only to be eventually ejected for nonconformity at the Black Bartholomew in 1662.

The signature to this document is written with a very shaky hand.

My good Warden,

I have binn lately solicited that S^r Willis (who is one of the Scollers of your house) might be dispenced withall for his absence from my Colledge beyonde his time limited without leave either of the house or myselfe. I am for this once upon his frinds greate importunity content and would have both you and my good Company understande that (for the good hopes I have harde of him) notwithstandinge my Statutes on that behalfe I doe by these presents not only dispencc with him for what is past but also geve him time untill Michaelmas next to returne agayne into my Colledge. And that he shall dureinge the whole time of his absence receive all such stipend allowance and comoditye from my Colledge as should be due unto him were he personally ther present with this condition that he returne by the foresayd time limited. And soe desiringe the Allmighty to blesse both you and your whole Company doe leave you to his protection and remayne

Your very loveinge foundresse

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Edge this viiith of
Aprill 1618.

To my good Warden Mr. William Smythe at Wadham
Colledge geve the (*sic*) in Oxon
with speed.

XXXV.

APRIL 8, 1618.

Between this date and March 16, John Arnold has, according to his promise, found opportunity to press the claim of William Boswell to a Fellowship, and once more the foundress proceeds to nominate in advance.

This William Boswell was the son of Alderman William Boswell of the parish of All Saints in Oxford: though one of the original Scholars, he was so young at the opening of the college that he was dispensed from the oath: yet he took his B.A. in February 1617. He did not receive the benefit of this nomination till 1622, after which he remained a Fellow till 1639. He became a Doctor of Civil Law, and was in due time High Sheriff of Oxfordshire. Being a native of Oxford he seems to have retained rooms in the college after resigning his Fellowship: though this may have only happened during the year in which he was High Sheriff. He outlived all the members of the original foundation, and died a bachelor in 1678. He is buried in All Saints' Church, and Wood says that the arms used at his funeral were 'Argent in chief three bears' heads erased sable muzzled of the field, a fess of five lozenges (or fusils) gules each charged with a martlet.'

Of his father we shall hear more when we come to the funeral of the foundress (XXXVI).

Thomas Porter, the grandson of the Bishop of Exeter, has already been mentioned several times in the letters V, VII, XIII, XV. He obtained his Fellowship in 1624.

This document has the usual seal of the foundress on paper turned back over wax, and the names of the witnesses except Rawe (see XXII) have occurred in other documents.

I Dorothe Wadham of Edge in the Countye of Devon Widdow doe decree and ordayne that when my servant Arnolds two kinsmen now Scollers in my house ar accordinge to my former Schedules long sithence sent unto my now

APRIL 8, 1618

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Warden admitted into the two next fellowships that shall happen to be voyde in my Colledge then you that ar the Warden and Fellowes of my Colledge in Oxforde shall imediatly chuse and admitt without delaye or contradiction in the next two fellowships that shall after happen to be voyde in the first place William Boswell and in the seconde place Thomas Porter now Scollers of my house as probationers untill the daye of election shall come and then to admitt them into the body of your fellowshipp accordinge to the meaninge of this my Schedule which I have sealed with myne owne seale and to which I have subscribed with myne owne hand this viiith of April 1618

DOROTHE WADHAM.

Signed sealed and delivered
in the presence of
John Arnold
Thomas Rawe
Thomas Drayton

XXXVI.

MAY 25, 1618.

The end has come: on May 16, Dorothy, the relict of Nicholas Wadham, the large-minded and generous (if at times imperious) foundress of Wadham College, died at Edge, leaving the ever-faithful John Arnold as her executor.

We have not the letter containing the news of her death; but the next two letters contain Arnold's directions for a solemnity to be held in the college on the day of her funeral. According to the Branscombe Registers her body was removed (probably to Merifield) on the second day after her death, but the funeral in Ilminster Church, where she was buried beside her husband, did not take place till June 16.

In accordance with Arnold's wishes Warden Smith supplied all the members of the foundation, besides the servants and certain other people (a list of whom will be found at the end of XXXVIII), with mourning, being aided by Alderman

Boswell, who was a mercer, and whose bill for the whole affair amounted to £157 17s. 2d. The Alderman testified his gratitude for his son's nomination to a Fellowship, and perhaps for other favours, by presenting the college with a silver flagon weighing over 40 oz., which was, with one exception, the heaviest piece of silver plate sacrificed by the college to the necessities of the king in February, 164 $\frac{2}{3}$.

Mr. Every, who is to assist in the choice of the black, and Mr. Alexander (of London), who is to pay the bill, are not otherwise known, but it is to be noted that one Simon Every entered the college in the following November. He was the son of John Every of St. Peter's-in-the-East, Oxford, who was a Somersetshire man, and was probably practising medicine in Oxford at this time.

Mrs. Greevell was Dorothy's half-sister, Thomasine, daughter of Sir William Petre by his second wife Anne (daughter of Sir William Browne and widow of John Tirrell), who had married Lodowick Grevil of Milcot in Warwickshire, and had now been a widow for nearly thirty years, for her husband, Lodowick Grevil, had 'stood mute' under a charge of murder in 1589, in order to save his estates from confiscation, and had undergone the unusual penalty of being 'pressed to death' at Warwick.

The letter has John Arnold's seal in wax.

Good M^r Warden,

Yf I should agayne repeate a sad message (I) would but ad more sorrow, you can perceive the many businesses that is fallen upon me and therfore (I) may neglect that which otherwise willingly I would not, I know you intend in your Colledge a solemnitye to be donn in hoñor of your Foundresse her funerall, and what is requisit for my parte, I would not have you thinke but accordinge to myne abilitye I will see performed, I must therfore of necessity be troublesom̄ unto my frinds (of which I accompte your selfe to be a cheife one) to procure that for me which my leasure will not permitt me to doe, and my purse hardly able to Compasse, yett will I pinche rather

then (because I thinke it fitt) spare the charge, my minde is to geve your selfe and all the Fellowes and Scollers that be of the body of your house in your Colledge mourning gownes a note whereof here inclosed I send you, but I must intreate you and M^r Every to Joyne in the buyinge thereof. I thinke M^r Boswell will furnishe you and I hope use me well in the serveing thereof both that it may be good cloth for his credit and at an easie prise for my purse, I hold the first day set downe for the Solemnising her funeralle at merifeild which is the xvjth of June next: accept at this time hasty lynes, I must tell you one thing by the way to yourselfe that what I doe herein is more out of myne owne volentary Desire to have all things well then of any Comande therin, as for mony to satisfie M^r Boswell for the sayd blacke upon notice from you of the charge I will returne forthwith unto M^r Alexander in London to discharge it and in the meane time this my letter shall warrant it I would intreate you to Convey to Mrs. Greevell my mistress her sister as much blacke rashe or other stuffe as you shall thinke fitt for a gowne for herselfe, and of some other stuffe for her mayde with two Cloaks for her men, with notice of the daye, M^r Boswell will furnishe you also, she dwelleth with in xx miles of Oxforde but where I know not, thus beinge bold to trouble you doe in haste comitt you to God
restinge yours to Comande

JOHN ARNOLD.

Edge this xxvth of maye 1618.

To the Right Worth my assured good freinde M^r William Smyth Warden of Wadham Colledge in Oxon geve these with speede.

XXXVII.

JUNE 2, 1618.

This second letter on the subject of the solemnity, written a week after the last, adds but little to its contents. The twenty pounds which Arnold hopes to send appear to be an addition to the expenses on 'blacks' already ordered, and were probably meant as a contribution to the funeral feast.

We cannot doubt that though the foundress did not leave 'mountaynes' behind her, yet that her estate was able to bear such charges as Arnold was incurring, as well as to pay £100 to the college and provide £100 worth of plate. At any rate in the inventory of the plate sacrificed to the cause of King Charles I there are 150 oz. of silver gilt and over 300 oz. of silver described as 'given by the foundress.'

I should gather that the Bishop of Winchester (James Montague), who was still Visitor of the college for life in spite of his translation from the see of Bath and Wells, was intending to be present at the funeral of his friend: he sent two bucks towards the funeral feast at the college.

The Lord Petre here referred to is William, second Baron, nephew of the foundress. The Doctor Swift, who was selected to preach the funeral sermon, was probably Jasper Swift, Archdeacon of Totnes, who was D.D. of Christ Church in 1618.

This letter is endorsed 'Mr. A.'s letter by S^r Bruen touching the funeral.'

Good M^r Warden,

I thinke before this you have harde what my minde is in all these businesses you write of touchinge the Colledge for I wrote you at full the last weeke to be sent you by M^r Alexander from London, the contents wherof was that (whereas it hath pleased my mistris to make me her Executor) although she apoynted noe provision to be made of blacks for you, yet doe I thinke the world will expect it and therefore for my parte will doe my best indeavour and doe hope you will doe the like that all things that may be for her honor be noe waye shortened. I have written in my last letter to intreate you and M^r Every to Joyne in the procureinge of blacks for you which I will freely bestow one you, and for orderinge your solempnities must rest upon your selves I haveinge enough to provide for here, and it may be when God shall make me able towards your further Charge therein will geve you twenty pounds which will be att a highe rate for

me to doe and provide here as wilbe expected, you may not thinke she have left mountaynes behinde haveinge donn as she hath I will protest (yf any man will defraye althings as I intende I will leave the executorshepp upon him), my mistris hath not forgotten your Colledge now at last nether for she hath geven you a Cⁱⁱ in plate and Cⁱⁱ to remayne in stocke for you. I am glad to here soe well of my Lord of Winton (w)home I have sent unto agayne and my Lord Petre with many others, how I shall defray these things I know not, but in that only shall I breake her will, in beinge over lavishe that waye, yet for my parte will performe all rites and duties that belonge to the solempnities of her person, and doe hope where other hoñors are to be donne and due in remembrance of her, those to whome it shall belonge will also see that performed accordinge to her deserte. Had I not doubted your presence would be expected in Oxford to see all thinges ordered at the time ther I would have intreated your performeinge the funerall sermon here, but doub(t)inge thereof have taken order with Doctor Swifte to execute the place the funerall daye holdeth the xvjth of may (June) and cannot be altered and soe in hast with my due remembrance so wishe you all happines and rest

Edge this second
of June 1618.

Att yo^r Comande
JOHN ARNOLD.

XXXVIII.

It only remains to notice the condition of the foundation at the death of the foundress as compared with its outset in 1613.

Warden Wright had resigned, and his successor, Warden Fleming, had died, and the Wardenship was now held by William Smyth, the original Senior Fellow. Of the other fourteen original Fellows, Harris was dead, and Swadell had resigned. Of the original Scholars, Flavell had become a Fellow and had died, and Huish, Hext, and Bruen were now Fellows: Stonehouse had resigned: and these five vacancies had been filled by Philip Hill, Thomas Porter, Thomas Crudge,

Laurence Drake, and Edward Clyffe. Randolph, one of the original Chaplains, had given place first to Robert Arnold and then to Timothy Basill, and both the original Clerks had disappeared, the post not being tenable after graduating B.A.

The list of those supplied with mourning contains the names of the Warden, fifteen Fellows, fifteen Scholars, and two Chaplains: of the remaining names, two were probably Clerks, and one was a Scholar designate; six were certainly college servants.

Notices of most of these men have occurred earlier in the book, but of some few the names now appear for the first time.

The only Fellow of the College at the time of Dorothy's funeral whose name is not found in the previous pages is Humphrey Sydenham.

He was a Somersetshire man, born at Dulverton, and entered Exeter College in 1606, where he took his B.A. in 1611 $\frac{1}{2}$, removing to Wadham when it was opened; and he was the first Wadham man to take an M.A., Dec. 3, 1613. It is to be noticed that although he stood ninth on the list of original Fellows, the foundress never nominated him to any office in her lifetime. He did not take priest's orders apparently till after her death, and once at least, shortly before she died, his conduct caused grave dissatisfaction. He subsequently became Vicar of Ashbrittle, Somerset (1627), and of Puckington (1630), and Rector of Odcombe (1644), and Prebendary of Wedmore Tertia in the Cathedral of Wells. He suffered for the king's cause, and was deprived of his livings by the Parliamentary Commissioners. He is said to have died in 1650, and to be buried at Dulverton. 'He was a person of a quaint and curious stile, better at practical than at School Divinity, and was so eloquent and fluent a preacher that he was commonly called silver-tongued Sydenham' (Wood).

His sermon on 'the Athenian Babbler,' now in the college library, indicates (we must suppose) the style approved by his contemporaries.

The next name to be noticed is that of Timothy Basill, the Junior Chaplain. There is nothing to show when he

succeeded as Chaplain, but it cannot have been before 1617, when he took his B.A. He had subscribed the Thirty-nine Articles as a Wadham man in 1614, and had his grace for M.A. on May 18, 1618. He is said to have held the college living of Fryerning for a few weeks in 1620. Nothing more is known of him, except that he had ceased to be Chaplain in 1624.

Between his name and that of Stokes, the senior Chaplain, is placed that of Mr. Tapper, who, though by no means near the top of the Scholars' list, was already an M.A. (June 23, 1617). He was a Devon man, and graduated B.A. June 28, 1614, at which time he was one of three suggested by the foundress (XIII) for a vacant Fellowship; but he never obtained one, though he remained a Scholar till 1629, when he resigned.

Among the Scholars not hitherto noticed occurs Robert Ellis; he was of Devon, and took his B.A. early in 1617, but proceeded no further and vacated his Scholarship before June, 1620.

The next is John Woolley, who, like Ellis, took his B.A. and then left the college, but he subsequently graduated M.A. from Alban Hall in 1619.

George Hill, of Somersetshire, was dispensed from subscribing to the Articles in 1614 when he matriculated, because of his youth; he, however, graduated B.A. in 1617, but went no further, and his place was vacant on June 30, 1620.

William Potter was likewise dispensed from subscribing to the Articles in 1613 on account of his youth. He was one of the two townsmen whom the City of Oxford nominated as Scholars in accordance with the agreement with the foundress. He appears to have been the son of William Potter, an Alderman of Oxford, and one of those named to arrange for the sale of Austin Friars. He took his B.A. in 1617 and his M.A. in 1620, and enjoyed his Scholarship till 1629, when he was removed for prolonged absence without leave.

Isaac Smith was the other town Scholar nominated by the City of Oxford. He appears to have been the son of Oliver Smith, an Alderman; he proceeded to his B.A. in 1617 and his M.A. in 1620, when his Scholarship was vacated for some reason not given.

The two original Clerks, Gill and Nichols, had been replaced by Thomas Corey and Walter Bond. The former, a Cornishman, took his B.A. and M.A. in due course, and is said to have been subsequently Vicar of Ewny-juxta-Lalant in Cornwall. The latter was a Somersetshire man, and disappears after taking his B.A. in 1622.

Of the remaining names on the mourning list, Richard Arnold was a kinsman, perhaps a brother, of Robert Arnold the Scholar, and had already received the foundress' nomination to a Scholarship, for which he had to wait till October, 1619; he graduated B.A. in 1627, and after enjoying his Scholarship for ten years was removed for prolonged absence.

Mr. Every was one of those directed to superintend the obsequies of the foundress, and Alderman Harris was probably the father of that Thomas Harris, the original Fellow nominated by the City of Oxford, whose premature death is lamented by the foundress in letter XIII.

The remaining six names are those of the college servants.

John Williams was Manciple; on December 20, 1618, he received a grant from the Society 'for his diligent and faithfull service to the College (for which he was much respected by the Honble. Foundresse during her life and deserveth to be well esteemed of us).' He is mentioned with commendation in Dorothy's letter (XII), March 28, 1614, to which a note is appended about him. He died in 1630.

Nicholas Buller was Butler, appointed by the foundress; there is some notice of him in the note to her letter of March 28, 1614 (XII).

Roger Robynson, who was still Deputy Cook, is referred to in the notes on letter X.

George Jacob was Under Butler: John Sarjant was Cook under Robynson, and R. Mathew presumably was Porter, the only office unaccounted for, Tynes the original Porter having died in 1614.

*The List of Persons put into Mourning on the death of
the Foundress, from Mr. Boswell's Account,*

June 2, 1618.

Mr. Subwarden (Bruncker).	Sir Boswell.
Mr. Deane (Pitts).	Sir Hill.
Mr. Osborne.	Sir Crudge.
Mr. Harrington.	Sir Porter.
Mr. Eastcot.	Sir Potter.
Mr. Strode.	—
Mr. Flexney.	Sir Smyth.
Mr. Payton.	Hill.
—	Drake.
	Clyffe.
Mr. Huish.	—
Mr. Puleston.	Corey.
Sir Bruen.	Bond.
Sir Hext.	Richard Arnold.
Mr. Sidenham.	—
—	Jo. Williams.
	N. Buller.
Mr. Stoakes.	R. Mathew.
Mr. Tapper.	George (Jacob).
Sir Basill.	Roger Rob(ynson).
—	Jo. Sariant.
	—
Sir Ellis.	Mr. Every.
Sir Arnold.	Ald. Harris.
Sir Arnold.	Myself (i. e. the Warden).
Sir Woolley.	—
Sir Willis.	Mr. Goodridge.
	Mr. Ancketyll.

The arrangement of this list is peculiar, and seems based upon no principle. The first two divisions include thirteen Fellows, but the names are not written by seniority: the remaining two Fellows, Goodridge and Ancketyll, appear at the end of the list; perhaps they were absent representing the college at the Funeral at Ilminster. Warden Smith brackets the next three divisions with the words 'for the Scholars

being fourteen and the Chaps (?),' but Mr. Tapper was still certainly a Scholar. It is possible that at this time, being the only M.A. Scholar, he sat at the Chaplains' table or was acting as Chaplain for Stokes. Richard Arnold, who is joined with the Clerks, was perhaps in receipt of some endowment either from the foundress or John Arnold. The next division consists of such college servants as were formally admitted to the Foundation in those days.

APPENDIX I

Some notes on the careers of members of the original Foundation (1613) mentioned in the preceding papers who are not referred to in the introductions.

ROBERT WRIGHT.

He was admitted Warden at the opening of the college in April, 1613, but resigned in the following July. The real origin of his connexion with the college is not to be seen. He was a Hertfordshire man, and a Fellow of Trinity College. It must be supposed that he had been selected by Nicholas Wadham before his death as the first head of his intended foundation, and one can only imagine that in the years which elapsed between the death of Nicholas and the opening of the college he had discovered that he could not work under the rule of the foundress.

He held several posts. As Rector of Woodford in Essex he may have come across the Petres; and as Canon of Wells he may have been known to the Wadhams. But there is no reason assigned for his selection as Warden or for his abrupt resignation of his post. He may have wished to marry; he certainly did so subsequently; and sent his son, who proved a scapegrace, to the college. At any rate he outlived his resignation thirty years, and was the first of a long procession of Wardens who attained to the episcopate, being consecrated Bishop of Bristol in 1622. He was subsequently translated to Lichfield and died at his house at Eccleshall in Staffordshire while it was besieged by Sir William Brereton in 1643. His portrait hangs in the college hall.

JOHN GOODRIDGE

was a Devonshire man, and had taken his B.A. from Balliol, 1602, and his M.A. from Gloucester Hall in 1606. At this time he was apparently studying in the Faculty of Medicine,

in which he was admitted to practice in 1618. He appears to have been in constant residence, and held one of the offices almost every year until, having completed eighteen years as Fellow, he was removed in 1631, when he bestowed upon the college the whole of the furniture of his chamber with its three studies situated in the south-west corner of the quadrangle. He subsequently became Gresham Professor of Rhetoric and Warden of Lord Northampton's Hospital at Greenwich, where he died in 1654, again evincing his love to Wadham by bequeathing property to the college for the foundation of exhibitions and for an obit speech. These exhibitions continued to be awarded to Commoners and Scholars till the property was merged in a common exhibition fund by the last University Commission, so that the name of this benefactor is no longer perpetuated in the college. His portrait hangs in the college hall.

EDWARD BRUNCKARD,

otherwise Brounker, or Brouncker, was matriculated as of Wiltshire, the son of a knight, but the College Register calls him a Londoner, and Anthony Wood describes him as of the parish of St. Bove, probably St. Mary le Bow. He had already taken his B.A. and M.A. from St. Edmund Hall, and subsequently proceeded from Wadham in the Faculty of Divinity. He was the first Bursar nominated by the foundress: he resigned his Fellowship in 1621. He appears to have been brother of Sir William, the first Lord Brounker (in the peerage of Ireland), who died in Wadham in 1645, and uncle of the second Lord Brounker, the first president of the Royal Society.

JOHN PITT,

or Pitts, was a Somersetshire man, and had already graduated B.A. and M.A. from Magdalen Hall. He remained steadily in residence and held office annually till he resigned his Fellowship in 1628. Sixteen years later, on the death of Warden Estcott, in the troublous days of 1644, he was elected to the Wardenship, being about sixty years of age. He is

said to have taken a prominent part in preparing the reply of the University to the demands of Parliament, and was ejected from the Wardenship by the Parliamentary Visitors in 1648. His rectory of Blandford St. Mary in Dorset had already been sequestered. He retired to Isle Brewers in Somerset, where he died in the course of the year.

MATTHEW OSBORNE

was another Devon man. He had already taken his B.A. from New College and his M.A. from Oriel. He continued steadily in residence till his Fellowship expired under the eighteen years rule in 1631, holding one office or other each year. It is to be noted that at the opening of the college he brought far the largest contingent of pupils, signing the stipulation for Battels on behalf of nine. He became Rector of Maiden Newton, Dorset, where his career is quaintly described in the Parish Register: 'unjustly turned out by the Rumpish Triers and restored by the just hand of Providence; his base and unworthy successor, Mr. Brumhall, put in by that scandalous party and turned out by God Almighty.' He did not, however, long survive the Restoration, dying in 1661.

JAMES HARINGTON

was the fourth son of Sir James Harington, of Ridlington. He had already graduated from Hart Hall, and was selected to preach the Latin sermon at the consecration of the chapel in 1613. Some time before the death of the foundress he became possessed of a pension of £40; but the college does not seem to have taken notice of the matter till 1627, when he was deprived of his Fellowship and a long controversy ensued, in which he pleaded that he had received a dispensation to retain his Fellowship in spite of the pension. He seems to have accused Warden Smith of destroying a letter containing the dispensation which had been addressed by the Visitor to Warden Fleming, and to the existence of which the four Senior Fellows deposed. In the end he was permitted to retain his Fellowship till the expiry of the eighteen years; but during the interval he was so exceedingly outrageous,

‘reviling the Fellows generally and the Warden in particular,’ that he was deprived of the advantages of his Fellowship for six months in 1629.

DANIEL ESTCOTT

was a native of Sampford Peverell, Devon, and had taken his B.A. from Exeter College before being nominated to a Fellowship; he seems to have remained constantly in residence, and almost always held one of the offices, till on completing his eighteen years from Regency he was removed in 1634, at which time he held the college living of Southrop. But in the following year he was elected to the Wardenship, on the resignation of William Smyth, and held it till his death in 1644, when he was buried at the east end of the chapel.

At his election as Proctor in 1624 the largest number of votes ever known till then was given; this was one of the last elections by public voting, the cycle for the nomination of the Proctors by the colleges in turn being introduced in 1629. It was during Estcott’s Wardenship that the college sacrificed its treasure, over 100 lb. of silver and 23 lb. 4 oz. of gilt plate, to the royal cause, and further lent the king £100.

RICHARD PULESTON

was an Oxfordshire man and a B.A. of Hart Hall. He only held his Fellowship till 1619, when he resigned on being ‘promoted to honour,’ probably to the living of Abbots Worthy, Hants.

FRANCIS STRODE

was a Somersetshire man, of Taunton, according to Wood, although in the Matriculation Register he is described as a Devonian. He had taken his B.A. at Broadgates Hall (now Pembroke College) and became M.A. in 1614. He held several offices on the foundress’ nomination, and also the college living of Southrop, which was not then incompatible with a Fellowship, from 1617 to 1623. He resigned his Fellowship in 1628, and is said to have been subsequently beneficed in the West of England.

RALPH FLEXNEY

came of an Oxford family, of which many records exist. He had taken his B.A. at Oriel, and several times held offices in the college: as he resigned his chamber in 1623, that was probably the time when he ceased to be a Fellow. He is said to have been subsequently Vicar of Offchurch, Warwick.

WILLIAM PAYTON,

a Gloucestershire man, had taken his B.A. from Trinity College; and judging by the offices which he held he must have resided continuously, holding at the same time the college living of Southrop from 1623 to 1632, on leaving which for Fryerning in Essex he gave much of the furniture of the vicarage for the use of his successor. He is presumed to have remained at Fryerning till 1657.

WALTER STONEHOUSE,

an original scholar, took his B.A. February 25, 1614, and migrated to Magdalen as Fellow before August, 1617. There he took his M.A. December 11, 1619, and B.D. April 16, 1629. He was instituted to the first mediety of the Rectory of Darfield, Yorks, October 3, 1631, but was ejected by the Parliamentary Commissioners and imprisoned. He died July 17, 1655. In Bodley there is a MS. 'Turcarum Historia Generalis' with this note 'Ista collegi Gualterus Stonehouse, Coll: Wadh: Schol: anno 1613, aetatis meæ 16.'

ALEXANDER GILL,

one of the original clerks, had a chequered history, for which see Appendix III.

WILLIAM NICHOLS

was of Somerset, and was admitted Clerk on July 1, 1613, but did not subscribe the Articles till a year had passed, on June 3, 1614. Nothing further is known of him: he does not appear to have graduated.

APPENDIX II

Persons nominated by the foundress as Scholars.

June 4, 1613.	Philip Hill.	
July 3, 1613.	Thomas Porter.	
Nov. 7, 1613.	Thomas Porter.	
June 27, 1614.	Philip Hill,	elected June, 1614.
	Thomas Porter.	
April, 24, 1615.	Thomas Porter,	„ April 15, 1617.
	Thomas Crudge,	„ Oct. 2, 1617.
	Lawrence Drake,	„ Nov. 7, 1617.
	Edward Clyffe,	„ Feb. 6, 1617.
	Alexander Gyll.	
May 23, 1616.	John Larder,	„ Aug. 5, 1618.
Aug. 13, 1617.	William Drake,	„ Dec. 3, 1618.
	Richard Arnold,	„ Oct. 4, 1619.
	George Savage.	
	William Turner,	„ May 4, 1620.
	Edward Abraham,	„ May 4, 1620.
	Thomas Raw.	
Feb. 24, 1617.	Gilbert Drake	„ June 30, 1620.
	or Henry Drake,	
	James Collins,	„ June 30, 1620.
	Alexander Goodridge or	
	Richard Goodridge,	July 3, 1627.
	Thomas Frankcom.	
	Jasper Frankcom.	

APPENDIX III

The career of Alexander Gill.

Alexander Gill was born in 1597, probably at Norwich. He may be supposed to have accompanied his father when he obtained the High Mastership of St. Paul's School in 1608, and to have remained in the school till he matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, on June 26, 1612, when he is described as 'plebei filius, Londinensis': he was granted an Exhibition of £10 a year out of Colet's Funds, but before receiving his first payment he had migrated to Woodham College, as the writer of the School Accounts calls it. Whether there were any circumstances beyond a reputation for scholarship to recommend him to the notice of Dorothy Wadham it is impossible to say, but it is certain that he was admitted as the first Bible clerk (ædituus) of her new foundation on April 20, 1613. He remained a member of Wadham College till he graduated as Bachelor of Arts on February 26, 161 $\frac{1}{2}$, but before he reached the degree of Master he had returned to his original college, Trinity, whence he took his M.A. on November 9, 1619. At Michaelmas, 1621, he succeeded Oliver Smythe as Under Usher of St. Paul's School, probably on the nomination of his father, and must have taken Orders, as we next find him graduating as Bachelor of Divinity from Trinity College on June 27, 1627, towards the expenses of which degree he received £10 from Colet's Funds. It must have been during his time as Under Usher that he was brought into contact with John Milton, who is believed to have entered the school in 1620, and a friendship sprang up between the young usher and his father's pupil of which we find notice in one of Milton's epistles. But in 1628 a cloud settled on the fortunes of Gill. He seems to have been in the habit of going to Oxford when he could be spared from school, and shortly after the assassina-

tion of the Duke of Buckingham (which happened on August 23, 1628), being in the cellar of Trinity College or in some neighbouring tavern, he rashly declared, in the presence of a party of friends, (1) 'that our King (Charles I) was fitter to stand in a Cheapside shop with an apron before him and say "what lack ye?" than to govern a Kingdom'; (2) 'that the Duke (of Buckingham) was gone down to Hell to meet King James there'; (3) 'that he was sorry Felton had deprived him of the honour of doing that brave act'; and with this he drank a health to Felton—indeed, it may be conjectured that this was not the only health that he drank on that luckless morning, as in fact comes out in the examination of one of those present.

Information of this terrible *lèse-majesté* was at once conveyed to Laud, at that time just appointed Bishop of London, and therefore Gill's ordinary, and who, though not yet Chancellor of Oxford, was already the moving spirit of the University. Within a few days (that is, on September 5) Gill was examined before Laud and the Attorney-General, and was obliged to admit the general truth of the facts laid to his charge, his signature, accompanied by that of his father, being appended to the report of the examination. For these on November 6 he was censured in the Court of Star Chamber, receiving a sentence which might satisfy the most exigent of monarchs, 'to be degraded from his ministry and degrees, to lose one ear at London, and the other at Oxford, and to be fined £2,000,' a sum which, when laid upon the Under Usher of St. Paul's School, probably involved imprisonment for life. That the mutilation and fine were eventually remitted at the entreaty of the culprit's father in no way detracts from the barbarity of the original sentence, and the picture of the times is further enhanced when we consider the tale-bearing of some of this party of friends of whom each was probably anxious to be the first to save his own ears.

Gill, however, was still in disgrace, for his brother George was substituted for him as Under Usher at Michaelmas, 1628. What became of him for the next seven years is not clear; but it is probable that he hung about the school and helped his

father, as he received gratuities out of Colet's Funds in 1631, £5; in 1633, £10; and the same amount in 1634; which would indicate that he was doing some service as the stipend of the Surmaster was only £17 6s. 8d. at this date.

That the elder Gill had been ill for some time is obvious from the dedication of his work on 'The Sacred Philosophy of Holy Scripture,' which appeared in 1635, and which he describes as 'the legacie of a dying man': in fact he died on November 17, 1635, and was promptly succeeded in the High Mastership by his son. He was elected on the day after his father's death; and although it is probable that he had been doing his father's duties during his last illness, yet in the light of subsequent events this haste may very well have been due to a desire to anticipate opposition from the Court or Archbishop Laud to the election of a man who, both from his character and his previous career, was likely to have many enemies. Gill at once proceeded to take his degree as Doctor of Divinity on March 9, 1636. But he had not long been High Master when complaints were made of his excessive severity; there were in the school two brothers named Bennett, one of whom, named John, must have been near the top of the school, for besides being 'Poor Scholar' in 1637-8 he received an Exhibition in 1639. These brothers Dr. Gill expelled from the school, but they appealed to the Governors, and the High Master was told to re-admit them, which he did apparently with a bad grace on February 18, 1639. Shortly afterwards, however, he again fell out with John Bennett, and a terrible scene ensued when he violently assaulted the boy until Bartholomew Baron, the Under Usher, interfered and, to use his own expression, 'took him off the boy with the words "What do you, Dr. Gill?"' After the inquiry into this matter Gill was warned that he would not be re-elected at the annual election of masters in 1640, but he found a few friends and gave some trouble, as is evident by what seem to be lawyers' charges of £13 7s. 7d. 'for displacing Dr. Gill,' and further in the accounts of 1639-40 he is paid only the strict stipend allowed by the founder without any of the extra payments and gratuities

by which the High Master's stipend had been augmented. He succeeded, however, in obtaining a pension of £25 with the condition that it was to be renewed annually, and finally he accepted £50 in full of all demands.

Alexander Gill, in spite of the notice which he had received, presented himself at the election to the High Mastership on January 7, 1640, and received some support. John Langley was, however, elected, and with the exception of the payment of his allowance up to Michaelmas, 1641, we have no further notice of him. He is said to have died towards the end of 1642, and to have been buried at St. Botolph's, Aldersgate. He was the author of certain works, and seems to have been fond of celebrating the triumphs of Gustavus, King of Sweden: a list is given in Wood's *Ath. Oxon.*

There is a book in the library of Trinity College, Oxford, presented by Gill; it has a Latin inscription and his arms excellently blazoned. Quarterly, first and fourth, per pale or and argent beneath a chief dancettée sable: second and third, sable within an orle of owls, an escutcheon argent: for difference a crescent or. The crest is a salamander, with the motto *Vincit patientia flammās.*

In the Library of Wadham College is a copy of Buridan's Aristotle's *Ethics* (1500) bound with his *Questiones* on Aristotle's *Politics* (1513) 'Ex dono Alex: Gill; art: Baccal: hujus coll: Comensalis' April 26, 1616, to which is added 'Empt: Londini: June 16, 1615,' 'et cupio et nequeo.'

Further, in the year 1636 he gave to the College a copy of his father's work on the 'Sacred Philosophy of Holy Scripture,' and in the inscription describes himself as 'authoris filius et successor, hujus Coll. quondam aedituus.'

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